DIST[illegible]N BY WRAPAWAY 02 9550 1622

991: New Series Number 28

TUESDAY 15 MAY 2001 $3.30 inc gst

SUPERSOCCER

AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING FOOTBALL WEEKLY

CHIPPERS SIGNS

ACE WOLLONGONG striker Scott Chipperfield has already signed for Perth Glory—according to a *SuperSoccer* source.

The deal, which is said to be worth $400,000, includes luxury accommodation and was put to bed in secrecy early last week.

Chipperfield's agent is former Wollongong chairman Brian Hastings.

It is believed that the Wolves offered a deal in the region of $90,000 which would have easily been the biggest contract in their history had the star player accepted.

Now Chipperfield will play out the NSL Championship series with Wollongong before heading to Europe for trials.

If he is unsuccessful in gaining an overseas contract he will play in next season's NSL with Glory.

OLYMPIC DEFY THEIR CRITICS

SYDNEY Olympic have defied the prophets of doom to go into Sunday's Major Semi Final as favourites.

And that is great news for the beleaguered NSL, smacked by a series of on- and off-field controversies this season.

The drawing potential of Olympic, who are said to be on the verge of a move to Cronulla's Sharks Park, is huge—and the ASF's treasury will be rubbing their hands with glee.

writes Bruce Campbell

PABLO CARDOZO: Olympic coach Branko Culina's ace in the pack against Melbourne Knights. The little forward has hit dazzling form just at the right time.

Olympic coach Branko Culina has overturned a series of injuries, suspensions and national team call-ups to take the sleeping giants of the NSL to within two games of a coveted Grand Final spot.

First Olympic must overcome Melbourne Knights in Sunday's glamour clash at Parramatta Stadium and then face up to the loser of the South Melbourne—Wollongong Major Semi Final.

That could even mean an all-Greek derby Grand Final for the first time in history if the canny Culina can take his charges all the way, and South get past the Wolves.

Olympic Park is scheduled for a Melbourne Grand Final venue but that mouth-watering prospect could have NSL chiefs re-thinking their plans.

The twenty thousand plus capacity of the dilapidated old stadium would creak at the seems if Olympic and South clashed in the big one.

But first Olympic have a date with Melbourne Knights, surprise victors over the much-fancied Perth Glory.

Wollongong also are out to defy their own critics.

"We're not going to Bob Jane Stadium to make up the numbers," said coach Ron Corry after his team got up 2-1 against South in an exciting first leg.

"They are a good team, but so are we.

"I might just have a few surprise in store for them in the second leg."

PAT FRASER REAL ESTATE

Sold On Service

WESTMEAD 9689 1344 TOONGABBIE 9636 1222

RESIDENTIAL SALES
PROJECT MARKETING

STRATA MANAGEMENT
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Disasters cast shadow over African World Cup

By Mark Gleeson
in Johannesburg

AS AFRICA faced up to yet another soccer stadium disaster on Thursday, a shadow hung over the continent's ability to stage a World Cup finals.

Africa expects to have its right to stage the World Cup in 2010 ratified by the game's governing body FIFA at a congress in Buenos Aires in July.

Close to 200 spectators have died in tragedies at matches in Africa over the last 12 months, most of them in stampedes caused by police firing teargas to quell rioting crowds.

At least 120 were killed in a stampede in Ghana on Wednesday after rioting by fans of Asante Kotoko, whose team had gone 2-1 behind in a league match against champions Hearts of Oak.

It is Africa's worst sporting tragedy and comes just weeks after 43 people died in South Africa and another 10 were killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo in other stadium disasters.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) urged Ghana's football authorities on Thursday to avoid the indiscriminate firing of teargas in stadiums.

"We extend our sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and to the entire Ghanaian football family," CAF said in a statement in Cairo.

"We are convinced that together with your governmental and security authorities you will find the way and means to prevent such tragic accidents in the future by avoiding the firing of uncontrolled teargas."

CAF president Issa Hayatou was among those who had to flee at last year's African Champions League final between Hearts of Oak and Esperance of Tunisia in Accra when a stray canister landed in the VIP box as police fired teargas at rioting fans.

The Ghanaian Football Association were fined $5,000 for that incident and Hearts banned from playing matches in continental club competitions at Accra's national stadium for a year.

But the ban did not affect their domestic matches.

Last July, 13 people were killed in a stampede when police deliberately fired teargas at stadium exits in Harare during the World Cup qualifier between Zimbabwe and South Africa.

On top of these incidents, there have also been serious riots in Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa in the last year, where deaths have been narrowly averted.

ANXIOUS RELATIVES queue outside a hospital in Accra after the Ghana stadium stampede tragedy

Indiscriminate firing of teargas by police to quell rioting supporters is commonplace in African soccer, where stewarding and other security measures are almost non-existent.

An inquest into the tragedy in Zimbabwe last July found the police action to blame for the 13 deaths but there have been no prosecutions of suspended police officers.

Last month FIFA president Sepp Blatter appeared to end any lingering doubts that the 2010 finals would be held in Africa when he declared in Addis Ababa: "Africa will definitely host the 2010 World Cup."

South Africa controversially missed out on winning the right to stage the 2006 finals when the executive board of FIFA voted 12-11 in favour of Germany.

South Africa and Morocco have already said they intend to bid for the 2010 finals.

The deaths at Johannesburg's Ellis Park last month were caused by a crush as an estimated crowd of 75,000 sought to gain access to the 60,000-capacity stadium to watch a top of the table league clash between the country's two most popular clubs, Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates.

Despite the tragedies, there have been no moves by African soccer leaders to ban police from firing teargas or set up guidelines for better stadium safety.

FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, said on Thursday it was "extremely shocked" by the deaths in Ghana.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has sent a letter of condolence to the president of the Ghana Football Association which states: "It was with deep shock and dismay that I heard early today of the terrible tragedy at the match between Accra Hearts of Oak and Assanta Kotoko in Accra yesterday evening.

"My thoughts and prayers, and those of the FIFA family, dwell today on the men, women and children who perished in this disastrous incident and the multitude of families and friends forced to suffer untold grief and bereavement.

"This is indeed a very sad moment for our sport."

FIFA said Blatter called for tighter security at football stadia and said it was the responsibility of the political authorities and national associations, leagues and clubs to "take all of the necessary security precautions and to follow FIFA's security instructions to the letter".

On 18 April, the FIFA Emergency Committee supported an action plan that would oblige national associations and confederations to appoint specialised security officers to take charge of match organisation and security.

Police fired tear gas at the match in Accra in an attempt to regain control after angry Asante fans ripped up plastic chairs and hurled them on to the pitch.

Stadium security will be on the agenda of the FIFA executive committee meeting on July 5 in Buenos Aires, FIFA said.

FIFA has warned that Africa's suitability to stage the World Cup finals depended on it improving stadium safety after a string of tragedies claimed nearly 200 lives.

"... while Hillsborough led ultimately to changes in stadium design and a trouble-free Euro 96 in England, and the Bastia tragedy of 1992 prompted tighter restrictions on temporary grandstands and a safe France 98, there is disturbing evidence to indicate that the lessons are apparently not being learnt everywhere," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

Blatter, in an advance copy of his column in the May issue of FIFA News, wrote: "The stadium disasters at Johannesburg's Ellis Park some weeks ago and now more recently again in DR Congo, Iran and Ghana brought chilling reminders of incidents in recent years, not least the Hillsborough tragedy of 1989."

Ninety-five fans were crushed to death during the English F.A. Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at the Hillsborough ground in Sheffield.

"The parallels between these incidents were too striking to be ignored," Blatter said.

UEFA president may seek new term

LENNART Johansson may stand for a new four-year term as UEFA president at the next congress in April 2002, according to a Swedish newspaper.

"All my colleagues in the UEFA executive committee have asked me to continue and this carries a lot of weight," the 71-year-old Johansson told the Expressen daily on Thursday.

"I want to step down...(but) it would be nonchalant of me to ignore their wishes," he said, adding that UEFA board members considering running for the job perhaps feared internal strife.

"They know what they have but they don't know what they'd get," Johansson added.

Johansson said in 1998, after losing the battle for the FIFA presidency to Sepp Blatter, that he would step down in 2002.

He has been president of European football's governing body since 1990.

Johansson told Expressen that former French international Michel Platini's aim to lead UEFA had played no role in his own change of heart to consider a new term.

Platini supported Blatter in the 1998 FIFA election.

"If he (Platini) runs, it will be difficult for him and the question is whether he has the ability to lead 51 national federations," Johansson said.

He added that he would give serious thought to a candidacy over the summer but did not say when he might make up his mind.

SuperSoccer
is produced weekly (Tuesdays)
by DUNTROON PUBLISHING

Suites 4-5 108 Railway Street, Corrimal NSW 2518
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 98, Corrimal NSW 2518

TELEPHONE: 02 4285 7480
FACSIMILE: 02 4285 7482
AFTER HOURS: 0413 435 191
EMAIL: footballweekly@hotmail.com

DEADLINE FOR GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADVERTISING IS 12 NOON FRIDAY PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

OFFICE HOURS 10am-4pm
MONDAY—FRIDAY

BUSINESS MANAGER & ACCOUNTS: Susan Campbell
EDITOR: Bruce Campbell (0413 435 191)
STAFF JOURNALIST: Frank Risorto, Adam Leto
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER: Carlos Furtado
STATISTICIAN: Jaime Campbell
EDITORIAL: Andrew Aiton, Marc Barnett, Ben Clarke, Bryan Cokely, Mark Fowler, Ben Moring, Ray Sandell, Rebecca Stanton, Greg Stock, Gary Vanderburgt, Stuart Veitch, John White, Binesh Mudaliar (NSWSF) and Agencies.
PHOTOGRAPY: Duntroon Sports, The Library, Andrew Dawson, Agencies.

ADVERTISING: 02 4285 7482
After Hours 0413 435 191

All material appearing in *SuperSoccer* is copyright (unless indicated otherwise) and may not be reproduced or stored in any form without prior written permission from the publisher or copyright owner. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Duntroon Publishing, NSWSF or the Editor.

© Duntroon Publishing 2001

Young Aussies set to take on the world .....

Young Socceroos take part in Asia Games

AN 18-man Under-20 football squad departed Sydney today (Tuesday) as part of the 15-sport contingent under the Australian Olympic Committee, which is representing Australia at the East Asia Games, being held in Osaka, Japan from May 19.

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou will use the games, in which Australia plays Japan and Guam in its opening rounds, as valuable preparation for next month's FIFA World Youth Championship in Argentina.

"The East Asia Games herald the start of a very hectic period for Australia's youth teams, and will provide valuable experience for each member of the squad," said Postecoglou.

"The tournament is a very prestigious one and we are delighted to have been invited.

"We're looking forward to continuing the good form which saw us through our recent qualifiers, and we're obviously hoping to win it."

Australia's matches:
21st May v Japan
23rd May v Guam

The Australia Under 20 squad:
Goalkeepers: Michael Turnbull (Marconi Stallions), Brad Jones (Middlesbrough, England).
Defenders: Gareth Edds (Nottingham Forest, England) Patrick Kisnorbo (South Melbourne), Jonathan McKain (Brisbane Strikers), Ljubo Milicevic (Perth Glory), Daniel Vasilevski (Melbourne Knights).
Midfielders: Louis Brain (Adelaide City), Ahmad Elrich (Parramatta Power), Michael Ferrante (West Ham, England), Jade North (Brisbane Strikers), Greg Owens (Sydney Olympic), Lucas Pantelis (Adelaide City), Wayne Srhoj (Brisbane Strikers), Luke Wilkshire (Middlesbrough, England).
Strikers: Joey Di Iorio (Werder Bremen, Germany), Joshua Kennedy (Wolfsburg, Germany), Franco Parisi (Sydney Olympic).

... and Joeys looking to repeat history against Brazil

AUSTRALIA is set to re-enact the final of the 1999 FIFA Under-17 World Championship against Brazil, after being drawn with the current champion in Group A for the 2001 tournament, to be held in Trinidad & Tobago, in September.

Eighteen months ago in Auckland, the Joeys were gallant in defeat, stretching Brazil through ninety minutes and golden goal, to a penalty shoot-out, eventually losing that in heartbreaking fashion, 8-7, to take home the silver medal.

The Joeys will be looking for a turn-around in fortunes in September, but have landed a particularly tough draw, with host nation Trinidad & Tobago, and Croatia also Group A opponents.

Australia can take heart however from the fact that it has gone through its campaign undefeated, a recent 9-0 aggregate victory over New Zealand capping off a successful qualification period.

"Looking at it, our group has to be the toughest," said coach Ange Postecoglou, today.

"We face the defending champion, we face the home nation, and we face a soccer nation which produces great soccer talent on a regular basis.

"So it won't be an easy draw, but on the other hand, it will be very exciting for all of us, the team is guaranteed of playing in front of big crowds, and if we manage to get through the group, it will really show the boys how far we can go.

"We'll be tested early on with Brazil first up, but in all honesty, this Australian team is a new group of players with a new coach, so what happened last time really shouldn't affect us, it's a new campaign.

"But it is Brazil, it is a huge challenge, and if we can knock them over, it will be a huge achievement.

"Our squad will get together, probably in late July for a small camp to finalise the selection process, and then we'll probably look to leave in August for South America, which is not far from Trinidad & Tobago, to play some high quality pre-competition opponents."

The full draw is yet to be announced by FIFA.

FIFA World Under-17 Championship, to be played in Trinidad and Tobago between September 13 and 30.

Group One: Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Croatia, Australia.
Group Two: Nigeria, Japan, France, United States
Group Three: Spain, Oman, Argentina, Burkino Faso.
Group Four: Mali, Paraguay, Iran, Costa Rica.

Australia launches bid for World Club Cup

AUSTRALIA is amongst more than a dozen countries have declared an interest in hosting either of the next two editions of the World Club Championship, FIFA said on Thursday.

Several national associations have posted an interest in both the 2003 and 2005 editions -- the second in case they fail to get the first.

The countries staking an interest in 2003 are: Australia, Egypt, England, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Tunisia, Uruguay and the United States.

Those aiming for 2005 are: Australia, Croatia, Egypt, England, Guatemala, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Uruguay and the U. S.

Each national association has until May 31 either to confirm, or withdraw, its candidature and to submit its bid documentation which will include potential host cities.

The decision on the host countries for both events will be made at FIFA's Executive Committee meeting in Buenos Aires on July 5.

The 2001 World Club Championship will be held in Spain.

Sportsmanship on display at major world youth tournament in Canberra

IT IS LESS than two months until the opening in Canberra of the 2001 Kanga Cup International Youth Soccer tournament. The dates for the tournament are 8-15 July.

The first Kanga Cup was held Sydney in 1991 but since 1993 the tournament has been an annual event in Canberra.

It provides the youth of the region the opportunity to play in an international soccer tournament against teams from the rest of Australia and overseas.

With the philosophy of "Uniting the Youth of the World through Football" the 2001 Kanga Cup is again expected to host around 150 teams, a far cry from the 30 or so entries of the early years.

Indeed the Kanga Cup is now one of the biggest youth soccer tournaments in the world.

This year entries have already been confirmed from the USA, Italy, NZ, and China, as well as from around Australia.

There are also possible entries from Kenya and East Timor.

The matches will be played at a number of venues around Canberra, including some under lights, and the finals will be played at the Australian Institute of Sport facility at Bruce.

Besides the soccer there is ample opportunity for visitors to take in many of Canberra's numerous tourist attractions, including the newly opened National Museum.

With around 2500 players playing in excess of 400 matches in a week the local economy is expected to receive a boost in the vicinity of $2M.

Another feature of the Kanga Cup is the Fair Play Award in each age group.

In 2000 during an early pool game the Under 12 boys from the Wagga Wagga Warriors raced to an 8-0 lead by half time.

To save humiliating the opposition the Wagga coach substituted a number of his key players and thus lessened his team's ability to continue its amazing strike-rate.

Unfortunately, when the semi-finalists were determined, Wagga missed out on a berth by a goal difference, which surely would not have existed except for the coach's wonderful sporting gesture.

Entries for the 2001 Kanga Cup close on Friday 25 May.

COMING SOON ....
SuperSoccer's NSL
GRAND FINAL SPECIAL

SOCCER FEDERATION N.S.W

NSW Super League

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
(1ST, U21, U18)

Sunday 20th May
Fraser Park Jets v Bankstown City Lions
Fraser Park 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

Hurstville City Minotaurs v Fairfield Bulls
St George Stadium 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

Stanmore Hawks v Dulwich Hill
Arlington Oval 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

Hajduk Wanderers v Rockdale City Suns
Hajduk Stadium 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

AC United v Macarthur Rams
Abruzzi Oval 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

Manly Warringah Dolphins v M.S.C Liverpool
Cromer Park 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM

Rescheduled Game:
Round 5:
MSC Liverpool v Stanmore
21s & 18s Tues 15 May 8:00pm & 6:15pm
1sts Tues 22 May 7:30pm
Hammondville Park

www.soccernsw.com.au

Brown confident with SoccerBlues

By Ben Moring

NEW South Wales coach Brian Brown is about to embark on a two match series against Victoria, away on June 2 and then home against Queensland, on June 16.

The matches are to be played at Epping Stadium in Victoria and Gabbie Stadium, home Brown's club side, Blacktown City Demons.

Brown will be hoping to continue an impressive run of results, following a 3-2 victory over Queensland last year and a 2-2 draw with Glasgow Rangers in January of this year.

The State coach was confident about the SoccerBlues prospects and said: "I'm very confident (of success).

"We have basically assembled a talented squad with a good balance.

"The attitude of the players is excellent, they are all keen to play.

"One player even told me that 'You've made my day', after finding out about his selection."

Coach Brown also commented about his first-up opponents, Victoria.

"I am expecting Victoria to be better than Queensland," he said.

"It will be a tight match.

"We are playing on a good surface (Epping Stadium) and I've heard it is as good as, if not better than Gabbie Stadium."

But the man in charge of leading New South Wales to victory uses a simple philosophy.

"The key to the State team doing well lies off the pitch," he says.

"It's not ability and what happened on the pitch, but off the pitch.

"Playing as a team is the most important thing.

"It's also not what the opposition do, it's what you do on the day."

Brian Brown landed the job by virtue of being awarded 'The Coach of the Year' award, held at the recent NSW Premier League Gold Medal evening.

Brown led his Blacktown City Demons to the First Grade Premiership.

The State coach suggested that he wouldn't change tactics a great deal, between his two sides.

"The tactics will be very similar, but the formation may be a bit different," he said.

"We might not start with a sweeper."

The New South Wales gaffer has enjoyed his short break and added: "I've been enjoying having a few weeks off, not having to go to training.

"But I'm keen to get back into it."

The squad's first training session will be held on Wednesday, May 23 at Parklea.

A friendly match with State League Division One side, Sydney University will follow this, on Tuesday, May 29 at Valentine Sports Park, 7pm kick-off.

The final training session will be held two days later on Thursday evening.

The team then flies to Melbourne early Saturday morning 2 June, where they will have a light run, before doing battle later that day.

New South Wales
Goalkeepers: John Crawley (Blacktown City), Darren Moore (Central Coast).
Defenders: Paul Dee (Blacktown City), Damien Foxe (Blacktown City), Paul Yates (Blacktown City), Tayfun Devrimol (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Vuko Tomasevic (Leichhardt Tigers), Dane Hokin (Central Coast).
Midfielders: James Stubbs-Mills (Leichhardt Tigers), Javier Mancino (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Devrim Huseyin (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Daniel Cummins (Melita Eagles), John Kyriazopoulos (Canterbury).
Forwards: Steve Lazzari (Belconnen), Darren Iocca (Blacktown City), Robert Gomez (Bonnyrigg White Eagles).
Officials: Laki Konistis— team manager, Brian Brown—coach, Tom McMorrow—assistant coach, David Hughes—physio, Nick Bilbija—Sports Trainer.

JON CRAWLEY: favourite to keep for the SoccerBlues

A.C. UNITED SOCCER CLUB
IMMOTA PHS MANET
ABRUZZI SPORTS CLUB

A.C. UNITED
Versus
MACARTHUR RAMS
Abruzzi Oval, Wetherill Park
SUNDAY 20th MAY

NSW SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER

Kick Off:
1st Grade 3.00 pm,
Under 21s 1.00 pm,
Under 18s 11.00 am

MSC LIVERPOOL
V
STANMORE HAWKS
TUESDAY 15th May
At Hammondville Oval
Heathcote Road, Holsworthy
Under 18s 6.15 pm Under 21s 8.00 PM
First Grade: 7.30 PM 22nd May

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AIR CONDITIONING
Liverpool STARR Partners

Milovanovic looks to Hong Kong

COSMOS Head Coach Milan Milovanovic flew out to Hong Kong last week in search of players to strengthen the Cosmos first team squad for next season.

The Hong Kong league is presently running its finals series and Milovanovic intends to attend training sessions and meet with various club officials with a view to identifying suitable prospects.

"We're looking to strengthen the squad and try something different," he said.

"I'm going overseas to see whether there might be one or two strong players that can make an impact for Cosmos in the NSL."

Milovanovic feels that the Hong Kong league holds unrecognised and untapped potential.

"There are a lot of players from eastern Europe, the Russian states and China who use Hong Kong as a first step towards a career in football in the west," he said.

"There are also many English players who might not have made the premier grade in England, but are still very good."

Milovanovic cites the example of Tim Bredbury, the NSL's highest goal scorer in 1991/92, who was brought to Australian from Hong Kong by Sydney Olympic and helped them to 2nd position on the NSL ladder.

Milovanovic has been talking to first team squad players about the club's interest in them for next season.

Cosmos's on-contract players are club captain Robbie Hooker and sharpshooter Mark Hagger, who will be with the squad next season.

Milovanovic has advised 12 off-contract players that the club would like to retain them as well; Jon Angelucci, Con Anthopoulos, David Arranz, Alex Castro, Milton Cortes, Shane Lyons, Angelo Konstantinou, David Milin, Hiroshi Miyazawa, Nic Purdue, Andy Rakic and Andrew Ravanello.

Marcus Phillips, whose season was cut short by injury, is aiming for a new contract after returning to fitness.

Milovanovic, who plans to commence pre-season training mid-July 2001, said. "The facts are that we have a long term plan to strengthen this club's performance on the field, and this is going to mean changes in the squad.

"I'm looking to find six or seven new players for next season, and we'll move forward from there.

"We've moved ahead from the past couple of years, and I don't want to be in the same situation as last year, when there wasn't the time for adequate preparation."

THE WARREN MEDAL INTERVIEWS
No 2: Sergio Melta

The coveted Warren Medal is named in honour of Johnny Warren, former St George star midfielder, Socceroo captain and an icon in the modern Australian game.
He is remembered by older fans for his sharp passing, ability to hold the ball up and terrier-like tenacity.
The Warren Medal is awarded to Australia's NSL Player of the Year and in this exclusive series *SuperSoccer* interviews all of the past winners.

SERGIO Melta was again brought to the attention of the football public at the start of this season, even though he retired from football with Adelaide City in 1995.

His team-mate of many years, Alex Tobin, was breaking his own record of National Soccer League appearances by playing 446 games.

Other than holding the record of 445 games, and amazingly all with one club, Melta played with Adelaide for 18 years and went on to win many honors including the 1984 Warren Medal awarded to the NSL Player of the Year.

But he was happy to lose his record to his former team-mate.

"It was disappointing to see the record go, but records are there to be broken," says Melta. "But if any player could have that record I would give it to Alex.

"We were team mates for a very long time and when I first started in the NSL he was starting to come through at the club.

"We even came through the same junior club in Adelaide so it was kind of ironic that we followed each other so much.

"He has done a lot for football in Australia and fully deserves a record like that."

Melta had played exceptionally well in 1984 but wasn't aware he was in the running for the Warren Medal.

"It was a pretty good year but I didn't think I had a chance of winning," Melta said.

"I think I was about 21 and there was a player from Sydney City who was favourite to win the Medal.

"The club asked me to come along and I thought I was going to the night for a nice dinner and a PR exercise for the club, so it was a huge surprise when they called my name out.

"I won the Best and Fairest award at the club that year and was very pleased with that.

"When I won the Warren Medal that just took me by complete surprise but now looking back at it, a nice surprise."

Melta continued playing with Adelaide City until 1995 when he retired.

Happy with his career, Melta was pleased to play all his football at one club and for so long.

"The key to playing so long I think is just to have enjoyment for the game," says Melta.

"I had that but also I was very lucky with injuries because I didn't have many ones.

"But I enjoyed playing at Adelaide for my whole career.

"It wasn't that I didn't want to go elsewhere, I was open to enquiries.

"I remember in 1985 a Sydney club came in for me but it wasn't advantageous for me to move.

"I was offered around the same wages and I would have to move interstate so there was no real difference if I moved.

"If you move for the better then you should do it, but if you had no real gain out of the move I believe you should stay.

"The one time I did try to go elsewhere, and this was before the days of agents and managers, I tried to play in Italy.

"I did it all off my own back and went to Italy and had a trial with a *Serie C* side at the time and I thought I did well.

"But the problem was that if I wanted to stay, I had to become and Italian citizen and I didn't really want to do that because then you have to do national service as well.

"I was really just speculating and thought I would just try out my luck while I was there."

Melta is now 42 and working in Adelaide as a hairdresser as well as his commitments with Adelaide City.

"I'm now assistant manager to Zoran Matic," Melta said.

"When I first stopped playing I didn't think coaching would be my thing.

"Now I really enjoy everything about it and find it really interesting.

"It's not just running around the field anymore, there's a whole science behind it.

"Behind the scenes with the players and different variations of training, I enjoy that side as well.

"It's good with Zoran because he is a great coach and it's good to see how he does things compared to others.

"I had my own team with the Adelaide seconds in the South Australia State League where we brought through juniors and first team players coming back from injury.

"It wasn't the same as being assistant but I would like to think in a couple of years I could be coaching a first team."

One disappointing aspect in the career of Melta was the fact he only played one game for the Socceroos.

In 1986 Melta played against Czechoslovakia in Adelaide but believes he missed many opportunities earlier in his career to represent his country.

"I have to be realistic and at the time I have to admit to myself that I wasn't playing my best football," says Melta.

"If I was picked about two or three years earlier then I would have played a lot more I think.

"I had better years and wasn't picked but for some reason that year I was picked.

"But if I was to look back they weren't my best years and my form wasn't good enough to hold a position in the Socceroo side."

Now looking back at his career Melta agrees he was fortunate to play with some great players.

So just who was the best player to wear the black and white stripes of Adelaide?

"I can't really answer that," said Melta.

"It's got to be all the players that I played with.

"Milan Ivanovic, Robert Zabica, Alex Tobin and Dixie Deans, there were so many good players.

"Every player was special in their own way so it would be unfair to single out one and I would have to give about 50 names."

And what of the current NSL players?

"Some of the players in the league are fantastic," says Melta.

"I enjoy watching Scott Chipperfield from Wollongong, the way he plays is great, and Kresimir Marusic from Sydney Olympic, I think he would be a great person to have in your side.

"I like midfielders more, they do a lot of work and go unnoticed by many."

Melta was in the same bracket and he was over looked by many although his overall contribution to Adelaide City can never be over looked.

Frank Risorto

Sergio Melta FACT*FILE*

Born: 19 January 1959
Position: Midfielder
NSL Club: Adelaide City (1977 - 1995)
Games: 445
Goals: 64
International Honours:
1 cap against Czech Republic, 1986
Club Honours:
Australian National Championship (1986, 92, 94)
Australian Southern Conference Championship (1986)
National Cup (1979, 89, 92)
Grand Final (1986, 92, 93, 94, 95)
1984 Warren Medal

YEAR	PLAYER OF THE YEAR
1977	Jimmy Rooney (Marconi Fairfield)
1978	Ken Boden (Newcastle KB United)
1979	Ivo Prskalo (Marconi Fairfield)
1980	Jimmy Hermiston (Brisbane Lions)
1981	Bobby Russell (Adelaide City)
1982	Peter Katholos (Sydney Olympic)
1983	Joe Watson (Sydney City)
1984	Sergio Melta (Adelaide City)
1985	Graham Honeyman (West Adelaide)
1986	Bobby Russell (South Melbourne)
	Graham Arnold* (Sydney Croatia)
1987	Andrew Zinni (Brunswick)
	Frank Farina* (Marconi Fairfield)
1988	Paul Wade (South Melbourne)
	Frank Farina* (Marconi Fairfield)
1989	Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi Fairfield)
89/90	Zeljko Adzic (Melbourne Croatia)
90/91	Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)
91/92	Josip Biskic (Melbourne Croatia)
92/93	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
93/94	Mark Viduka (Melbourne CSC)
94/95	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)
95/96	Damian Mori (Adelaide City)
96/97	Kresimir Marusic (Sydney United)
97/98	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
98/99	Brad Maloney (Marconi Fairfield)
99/00	Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong Wolves)

* The Player of the Year award was voted by the media until 1988. In 1986 a players' award was instituted and after 1988 it replaced the media award as the only award presented at the NSL Awards Night. Currently the Player of the Year is awarded the Warren Medal.

HOW TO HELP NSW SOCCER PRODUCE ANOTHER GREAT PLAYER FOR OZ.

JUST USE THIS CARD!

For every dollar spent using the NSW Soccer American Express card, we receive something back for our Talent Identification, Zone, Regional and Elite Development Programmes.

So help us to help produce more great players for New South Wales and Australia—simply by using this card.
For further information contact American Express on 1300 36 36 87

Or see the online application form on our website at www.soccernsw.com.au/americanexpress.html
NSW Soccer Federation www.soccernsw.com.au

Packer ready to impress in Finals

By Frank Risorto

SYDNEY Olympic's Andrew Packer has found himself in a good situation.

In the finals for a second year running, he played last season's finals with Carlton.

Making regular substitute appearances for Olympic over the last third of the season, Packer come into the Sydney Olympic side after injury robbed them of several first team players.

He grabbed his chance with both hands and won many plaudits with his performance in the first leg against Marconi.

"The whole team did well and it showed on the field and in the score," says Packer.

"The players wanted to prove themselves too, we were in the top two for a long period of time and were disappointed to miss out so we wanted to do well.

"We went into these games very confident because we have played them three times and have beaten them every time."

For somebody who after the early part of the season had no National League club to play with Packer remains upbeat about his future in the game and with one year on his Olympic contract left he's happy to be at the club.

"I'm not looking ahead next season I just want to concentrate on this season," Packer says.

"And just to go as far as possible in the Finals is my main aim plus I like it here and have settled quite well."

Each week Packer is improving and this season's Finals experience is a good one for the 23-year-old.

As coach Branko Culina admits Packer can only get better.

"He has done well against Marconi and he has a lot of potential," says Culina.

"He's only young and if he keeps listening and learning he will develop into a very good player."

Playing Finals is something Packer enjoys and believes he's in a good place to learn more about the game.

"At Carlton we learnt from Andrew Marth and Dave MacPherson and some of the other older guys," he said.

"It's the same here, we have Troy Halpin, Pablo Cardozo and Ante Juric and they all pass on advice and are always talking.

"There's more of a buzz about the place and you can sense that everybody lifts their game.

"We have unlimited potential and it's up to us how far we go.

"All we have to do is give our best and just hope everything goes our way.

"I think if we all do our job and do it right we will do well and come together as a side and go well."

Slow start could haunt AC United but Sansone is confident of turn around

By Frank Risorto

BEING promoted from Division One to the New South Wales Super League AC United were aware of the challenge that was ahead.

New players and a new coach in Paul Carter were unfamiliar and they were aware it would take time to gel as a unit.

In their first three games there were opportunities to take three points but the luck didn't go their way.

If they did get those nine points maybe their start of the season would have been more pleasing to the AC faithful.

With new mid-season arrivals from the Premier League clubs including Tayfun Devrimol and Devrim Huseyin from Bonnyrigg things are looking good.

There are even rumours doing the rounds that NSL legend Francis Awaretife might soon be on the way to Abruzzi Field.

So the club is ambitious as ever and intends on moving up the NSWSL table as soon as possible.

AC United wing-back Enzo Sansone believes their season is far from over.

"It's not going too good at the moment but there's still a long way to go," Sansone says.

"These games that we are losing could cost us in the long run because may need these points and the start to the season wasn't the best.

"They were games we could have won but it just didn't go our way."

Sansone believes a team effort is needed by every player to get them out of their form slump.

"We are just not getting the points and scoring goals and that is hurting us," he said.

"Our form hasn't actually been that bad, we lost to Fairfield 5-0 but we only had nine men on the field.

"Every game is vital at the moment so who knows what will happen, we just need to get some points under our belt in the next few weeks.

"Attacking wise we have been poor, but it's not their fault we need to lift all over the park in defence and midfield as well.

"We got these players from the Premier League and they will strengthen our squad and hopefully give the other players a boost."

Coming up from Division One AC United kept much of their squad from last year but brought in several new players including coach Paul Carter from Belmore, Ninos Bobos from Fairfield Bulls, Ben Price from St George and Steven Klamovski from Hurstville City.

And Sansone believes all the players have handled their step up to the NSWSL very well.

"It wasn't a problem at first but I think the only thing we have struggled with is the pace of the Super League," Sansone said.

"But we are getting use to it and hopefully the team performance will improve as well as individually we will lift our game.

"Some people are talking about relegation and things like that but at the moment we just wan tot try and win as many games as possible.

"Then the results will come on the field and we will get the points that we need, and at the moment that's our main concern.

"Relegation talk is something new to this club and I'm sure that it won't keep up.

"But I'm pretty sure we will get out of this.

"We are a good team and shouldn't be that low on the table, we have the players to do better and I think we will.

"Our coach Paul Carter is fitting in well and now we just have to keep giving our best and work hard and the results will come."

SOCCER FEDERATION N-S-W

NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION LIMITED.

2001-2002

PREMIER LEAGUE

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

are invited from Clubs interested in participating in the *2001-2002 PREMIER LEAGUE* 'Summer' Soccer Competition.

Entry Criteria and further information is available from
Mr. Graham Crawhall
Competitions Secretary NSWSF
Telephone : 9629 -1800

ALL WRITTEN APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CEO -NSWSF.

*Applications **CLOSE** 31 May 2001*

www.soccernsw.com.au

NSW

Bishara ready for his big break

By Frank Risorto

ONE young football player who has caught the eye of many is Fairfield Bulls striker Bishara Stefan.

The 15-year-old has impressed many with his performances this season in the Super Youth League scoring five goals and aiming for more.

"My goal is to score as many as possible," says Stefan.

"My season has been good so far with goals coming regularly so I just want to keep going.

"We started the season well but it was bad to lose to Bankstown, but we had two players injured and we could do with those extra three points."

Bishara recently spent time in Lebanon and even though he would like to play in the National Soccer League, he would like to try his luck overseas first.

"I would enjoy the challenge of going overseas," he says.

"My family went to Lebanon and I played there with Ahah Al Aley.

"They offered me a contract and I wanted to stay but decided to come back and finish Year 12.

"I want to go back if I can and they said they would contact me after I finish Year 12 so I would like to go back there.

"It's a pretty good league, in my side we had two Brazilians and there's a few foreigners in each team, it would probably be pretty similar to the Super League.

"But for now I want to win a Championship with Fairfield."

NSW STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Western Sydney Lions
v
Central Coast Lakers

VENUE: Knight Park #4
Orchardleigh Road, Yennora

DATE: Sunday 20th May 2001

KICK OFF: First Grade 3 pm
Under 21s 1 pm Under 18s 11am

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
J.J. SNACKS
FROGGY INTERNET

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.wslions.20m.com.au

Eric Cantona (R) former French international and Manchester United player (R) controls the ball in front of Thailand's Pakpolchanan Rassami (L) during the Tipco Pro Beach Soccer friendly match at Muang Thong Thani in Bangkok May 12, 2001. France beach soccer team beat Thailand 7-5.

Barota pleased with Lions transformation

By Frank Risorto

WESTERN Sydney Lions captain Ron Barota is quite pleased with how his team has transformed, both on and off the field.

Barota who has been at the club for over three years now has seen the club formerly known as the Fairfield Kings change their name and move from Division Four to Division Two.

"The club is great," Barota says.

"Our ground Knight Park 4 is very good and we have just had lights put in as well so it's looking good.

"They know how to look after a player and even the bonuses they offer are a good motivation to do well.

"Considering this club is run by three or four people, they've done a great job."

Currently sitting in the middle of the Division Two table many have been impressed by the Lions, including their young striker Eddy Adam and veterans Leo Pintos and Danny Cerjak.

"In the case of Eddy Adam, our coach Michael Mamoo saw him play in a church league and he looked the goods so he gave him a go and he's done really well so far scoring five goals," he said.

"But Leo and Danny have been fantastic this season, they have really helped a lot of the younger guys on the field.

"It's good to see we have a young side of 21- and 22-year-olds. We've had a lot of silly suspensions and injuries so we have had to use a lot of young guys, but they haven't let us down.

"And this season we really haven't had a balanced side so far with injuries and suspensions."

Seven games into the season Parramatta City sit on the top of the Division Two table but Barota is confident that the Lions will be near the top of the table come Finals time.

"Balmain were a good side when we played them," Barota said.

"Parramatta City and Western Rage have been good so far and at this stage last year we were 10 points clear with Western Rage.

"This year is a lot closer but when it comes to the end of the season we'll be challenging for the Championship, I'm sure of it."

Attard just wants to forget last season

By Adam Leto

THE year 2000 was a season Macarthur Rams midfielder Gary Attard would rather forget.

A spiteful match against Bonnyrigg White Eagles in round three saw Gary suffer knee ligament damage and his season was over.

After a knee reconstruction and extensive physiotherapy during the off-season Gary is back with the Rams this year and determined to make the most of this opportunity.

"It was a hard road back. Mostly just regaining fitness and getting match fit," Attard says.

"Probably the hardest thing and most frustrating thing was having the will to play, but being physically unable".

The Rams have surprised a few teams this season with good results against higher placed teams.

"We've upset a few teams, games we weren't expected to win, but we've dropped some games we were expected to win," Attard said.

"We're still a young team and we've got a few new players who are just starting to gel.

"This competition is just so tight that any team can beat any other team on their day.

"The side is doing better than most people expected."

Attard's fitness and output have improved with each week and has been a prominent figure in the team's matches so far.

"I feel great, I'm holding my spot, and my main goal for the season is to play as many matches as possible, " says Attard.

"I scored my first goal last week and hopefully I can get a few more along the way."

UEFA Cup final could be most boring ever, Cruyff says

By Kevin Fylan

ALAVES midfielder Jordi Cruyff has warned that this week's UEFA Cup final against Liverpool could be the most boring in the competition's history.

Liverpool adopted an ultra-defensive approach in their two semifinal games against Barcelona, and Cruyff said Alaves would use the same tactics if Gerard Houllier's side play negatively in the final in Dortmund on May 16.

"If Liverpool defend with nine men behind the ball they'll find that we have 10 men back," Cruyff said at a news conference last Monday.

"It could be one of the most boring finals in the history of the UEFA Cup.

"It's up to Liverpool to take the initiative, though, and their fans won't stand for them playing the same sort of defensive game."

Alaves coach Jose Manuel Esnal agreed that the final may not live up to expectations.

"In European finals you don't often see a lot of great football," he said.

"Any way of playing that gives you the victory and brings you the cup is great football."

Cruyff, who joined Alaves from Manchester United over the summer after a frustrating spell at Old Trafford, said the little known Basque club would not be relying on his familiarity with the English league for their preparation for the final.

"I've seen some Liverpool games this season, even before we reached this situation with the final, but the coach hasn't asked me about them," he said.

"It's one of the things I like about this club -- we don't change our strategy to suit the opposition.

"The coach believes in us.

"Liverpool are a good side.

"I saw their two games against Manchester United, which they won, and they've also beaten sides like Porto, Roma and Barcelona in the competition.

"But with Inter Milan I think they only realised afterwards that we're a good team.

"By then it was too late for them."

Everton manager confirms Gascoigne's season over

PAUL Gascoigne's season is over after another operation, Everton manager Walter Smith said.

But the English premier league club remain hopeful the former England international will be fit to begin training for next season in July.

Gascoigne, 33, had surgery for the third time this season on Wednesday on a thigh muscle and to remove a metal plate from his arm.

Smith added: "That is his season over now, he won't be able to play again.

"He has had a very small operation to release a little bit of muscle that has been causing him a problem in his thigh.

"At the same time the surgeon removed a metal plate that was in Paul's arm from a previous injury when he was playing for Middlesbrough."

Gascoigne's career has been blighted by injury, the most famous being the cruciate ligament damage he suffered in the 1991 English F.A. Cup final against Nottingham Forest, which put him out of action for more than a year.

His latest problem has led to inevitable speculation that his Goodison Park career may be over after just 10 months, but the club insists Gascoigne will not be leaving.

A club spokesman said: "Although it is difficult to say when exactly Paul will be back, we remain hopeful he will be with us again for pre-season training if not sooner.

"The manager has not set a date yet when that will be, but it is usually near the beginning of July and as an Everton player Paul is expected to be present."

SuperSoccer.
OUTSELLING ALL OUR RIVALS
and in your local newsagent
EVERY TUESDAY

Soccer Illawarra

Gaffney looking for the finishing touch at Wests

By Frank Risorto

WESTERN SUBURBS coach Larry Gaffney believes with a little luck their season could be a complete different story.

After six games Western Suburbs have had one win, four draws and one loss.

"It's been frustrating with the draws but so far I'm reasonably happy with how the season has gone and how we have played," says Gaffney.

"At the moment we are just not finishing sides off when we have the opportunity.

"The defence has done well and the midfield has done particularly well.

"But we have missed our striker Blake Montgomery, (injured), there's no doubt about it.

"He may be back for the second half of the season but we're certainly not going to rush him.

"Now we just have to try and concentrate beating sides and finishing them off."

Going into the start of this season was going to be tough for Wests after losing several layers including both Frank Barilas and David Cuda to Balgownie and Daniel Hastings to Bulli.

But they recruited well and brought in Neil Harlock from Wollongong Wolves, Jason Wenig, Gavin O'Brien, Adrian Thompson all from Northern United and Matthew Bailey from Kemblawarra.

"All the new players have done quite well, especially the guys from Northern United," Gaffney said.

"Jason Wenig has been made club captain and he's let nobody down, playing really well.

"All of them have been great and without them we probably would have had a terrible start to the season.

"I'm disappointed to have Neil Harlock out through injury, he's missed a lot of game time and we could have used his experience up front.

"But we did lose some senior players at the end of last season and we have done well to attract good players to the club."

Gaffney is still upbeat about his side's chances with so long to go in the season and believes in the second round they will improve.

"Everybody at the club has worked really hard and we could just be one player off having a good season," he says.

"We could bring someone in and they could be finishing these sides off that we are missing out on.

"Up front we are missing out on experience and that's where Harlock will be important when he comes back in to the side.

"Against Wollongong Olympic we weren't to good in the first half.

"But in the second half we turned it around and we were great but we just couldn't finish them off.

"The same goes for the game against Shoalhaven.

"We had a 1-1 draw with them and we should have won by a big margin considering the chances we created.

"That's probably the most important thing so far, it's that we are creating chances.

"As long as we keep creating the chances eventually they're going to go in.

"Our start is important and it could be the difference at the end of the season and these points that we are missing out on could come back to haunt us.

"But for now we just have to take each game as it comes and concentrate on getting the points under our belt and winning games."

SuperSoccer
AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING FOOTBALL WEEKLY

Gomez keen on the challenge with Fraser Park

By Frank Risorto

FRASER Park coach Gerry Gomez believes the influx of Premier League players to Super League clubs is one of the major factors in the clubs slow start to their New South Wales Super League season.

Some of the Jet's new signing's in recent weeks have been Vadim Mikoutski from Blacktown City, Daniel Cummins and Jim Bakis from Parramatta Eagles and Abbas Saad from Canterbury-Marrickville.

"It's a shame that these players are going between the two leagues but that's want they want to do," says Gomez.

"But I don't think it's fair for these players to come here for the winter and then go when they want to but their the rules and it applies to everybody.

"The frustrating thing is that the players that come from the NSWPL then need to do training to get match fit and if we have already started our pre-season it's too late.

"Players are still doing their pre-season and are getting better each week with match fitness.

"Starting in January would be ideal to pre season but you would be kidding your self because half of your team wouldn't be available.

"I don't understand why some of these players do play both competitions because if one of your team-mates is in another team where's the bond.

"These guys want to earn money and just play all year so you can't blame them.

"But these players are experienced and bring a lot to the team.

"So they might just give you that extra edge that you need to do well in this competition."

Currently sitting in ninth spot after seven rounds, Fraser Park came up from the First Division last season and are becoming accustomed to life in the Super League.

"It's tough we have Fairfield Bulls, Bankstown City, Dulwich Hill away and then Rockdale after that so it doesn't get any easier," Gomez said.

"We must surely get some points from these games but we're not that far from the top two or three and there's no need to panic.

"But we knew when we come up to the NSWSL that it was going to be tough and so far it's been a good challenge for my players.

"The most pleasing thing is that we haven't been out played by anybody.

"We're in the middle of the table and we played well against Dulwich Hill and against Rockdale we went to sleep and conceded three silly goals but did well to come back to 3-2.

"The side we have at the moment is going through a transformation with six new players coming into the team.

"So we're not used to everything just yet but in the second round of fixtures I think we'll greatly improve as a side.

"The pressure is probably coming from ourselves because we aren't finishing off our opponents and are losing points when we should be getting all of them.

"A lot of the sides we are playing like Macarthur Rams, Fairfield Bulls, Dulwich Hill and Rockdale all have players that are experienced at this level and it was a big jump for a lot of my players.

"A few years ago when I first started out a this club we were in Division four and now we find ourselves in the NSWSL so it's a big jump in standards.

"Many of my players weren't in this league before but they've done a good job and performed well.

"In some teams players like Matthew Dihm or Steve Karavatakis have experienced this type of football before.

"Plus some of the top sides have been together for a while and we have a relatively new squad but like I said in the second round I think we will improve and you will see a new Fraser Park.

Born in Costa Rica and well known for his goals in the National Soccer League Gomez played for Sydney City, Marconi and Parramatta Eagles.

And Gomez is enjoying his time as a coach and is hoping he can go as high as former Sydney City team-mate Frank Farina.

"In coaching I want to go as high as possible," he says.

"It was my ambition to play for Australia as a player and it's the same as a coach I would love to coach Australia but that's a very long way off.

"I'm taking many courses on coaching and am enjoying them.

"But I have a lot to learn and at the moment that's a long way off.

"This is a big job and it's only Super League so to go up to the Premier League or NSL would be a huge step up.

"It's something I would love to do but for now I'll do my best at Fraser Park.

"Coaching is probably the second best thing to playing itself and you still have that desire to win.

"It's not the same as when you win as a coach but it still feels good.

"When you do win though it's very rewarding and it feels great.

"But the down side is when

Wong at the Hill

By Frank Risorto

DULWICH Hill's Eddie Wong believes that overseas is the way to go for any young footballer.

Despite many young football players working their way through National Soccer League Youth sides and then into the first team 22-year-old Wong is hoping his time at Dulwich Hill is an experience that leads to something even bigger.

"At the end of this season it looks like I'm going to China to play football," Wong says.

"I was recently over there and had to come back to finish University but want to go back.

"The standard is little better then over here but it's the way the players are treated.

"It's not quite professional but you are looked after very well and that's on the financial side of things as well.

"The league is getting stronger as well due to the foreigners coming in and I hope to be part of it.

"I would love to play in the NSL but I want to try China first and see what happens

Wong arrived at Dulwich Hill from Stanmore Hawks and has impressed many with his performances so far this season.

And with players like Eric Hristodoulou, Matthew Dihm and George Kalogeras to help him with his game, Wong believes he's far from playing to his full potential.

"Eric is the main influence of our side," he says.

"He always does a lot of talking on the field and is always helping me with my game.

"He also keeps the team calm in situations where we tend to panic, he has great leadership skills and it rubs off on us.

"I would love to become captain of a side one day and Eric's experience and the way he captains a side is great, I hope if I'm a captain of a team I would be like that.

"Matthew Dihm is great as well, he's always helping me and others with anything in our game.

"Steve Karavatakis is great as well, everybody helps when ever they can with any advice.

"My shooting is probably my worst asset at the moment, I would like to improve that part of my game.

"But my determination to do well is a big plus I believe I have.

"It's really strong and I'll never give up but we're always improving with age and I think you get better as you get older, you can see more of what's happening on the field as well.

"There's a few young guys in our squad and with the older guys experience and our enthusiasm I believe we're a good mix.

Dulwich Hill are currently sitting in equal first spot after seven games on the Super League table with Rockdale.

Many football fans who follow the SL closely have shortlisted Dulwich Hill along with Rockdale and Fairfield as early favourites.

But for Wong it's an even competition this year and as close as ever.

"Funnily enough the best side we've come across this season is Liverpool," he said.

"When they played us they were great and really played well.

"Manly and Bankstown have very impressive as well.

"So it's definitely not a two or three horse race by any means

Cervinski going for historic double in bid to stay with Wollongong Wolves

By Frank Risorto

ProFILE
Name: David Steven Cervinski
D.O.B: 8 November 1970
Position: Defender
Previous NSL Clubs: Melbourne Knights, Carlton
Current Club: Wollongong Wolves
Honors: 1994/95 NSL Championship
1995/96 NSL Championship
1999/00 NSL Championship
NSL Games: 208
NSL Goals: 18
Wollongong Wolves Games: 56
Wollongong Wolves Goals: 3

WOLLONGONG Defender David Cervinski is a one-of-a-kind footballer.

Many strikers would back that statement up.

And not to put a jinx on him but Cervinski is in the situation where he could find himself winning a back-to-back National Soccer League Championship.

To make it more special he would have achieved this with two different clubs.

The only other player to do that is Fausto De Amicis who won with Melbourne Knights in 1994/95 and 95/96 and with South Melbourne in 1997/98 and 98/99.

Cervinski won the NSL Championship with Melbourne Knights in a side that featured Mark Viduka, Andrew Marth and Ivan Kelic.

Cervinski stood out for his never-say-die attitude and has always been popular with the fans and if the opportunity arises this season for another Grand Final, Cervinski will be playing in his sixth Grand Final.

"It's pretty special but we're not there yet and if we can beat South Melbourne I could catch Fausto," says Cervinski.

"But he's had four wins and I've only had three so I'm hoping to catch him this year.

"Not many people get to play in the Finals series let alone a Grand Final, so to play in five I'm very fortunate.

"Every year you start with another challenge and this year it was for us to win again.

"For Wollongong to win another Championship would be great for the club and it could set up the club for a long time to come."

Cervinski came to Wollongong after a spell in Malaysia with Gombak and won praise from many after his performances last season.

At the start of the season Cervinski was a regular in the Wolves side but succumbed to injury and was then left out.

For the rest of the season he came in and out of the side and regularly come off the bench until a few weeks ago.

"In the first half of the season I was playing with an ankle injury and tried to just keep playing but my form wasn't great," he says.

"I struggled to get back into the side but now have been playing again and am enjoying it.

"For about five or six weeks I didn't really play that much but against Northern Spirit I started and it took about twenty minutes to get back into the swing of things.

"I'm happy to be back in the side and now am hoping to play a part in the Finals, but that's up to our coach, Ron Corry."

Playing against South Melbourne makes it all the more sweeter for Cervinski who admits he's not the most popular man at the Bob Jane.

"I copped a bit when I went there with Melbourne Knights and Carlton," said Cervinski.

"Especially with my time at the Knights they didn't like us so they always single me out but I enjoy playing there."

Now that the Wolves epic Grand Final against Perth Glory is nothing but a distant memory for the players Cervinski believes they can call on their experience of last year to help them throughout this season's Finals.

"The situation is very similar to last year where we finished second to Perth and during the regular season we didn't beat them, just like with South Melbourne this year," says Cervinski.

"We won 1-0 at home then lost to Perth 2-1 after extra time.

"But we know what we have to do and the good thing is that nearly every player now has Finals experience.

"And we probably learnt lessons from last year and I'm sure the side is stronger for it."

Along with his arrival, he brought the club to the attention of several other current Wolves including Stuart Young and Ben Blake who played with Cervinski in Malaysia.

Cervinski is disappointed that Wollongong have not made any formal approach to renew his contract for next season.

"It's quite unsettling because I have just began to feel at home here in Wollongong. I am just beginning to build a house here as well," Cervinski said.

"I have had one interview with the club and they haven't got back to me yet so I'm hoping it's not too late.

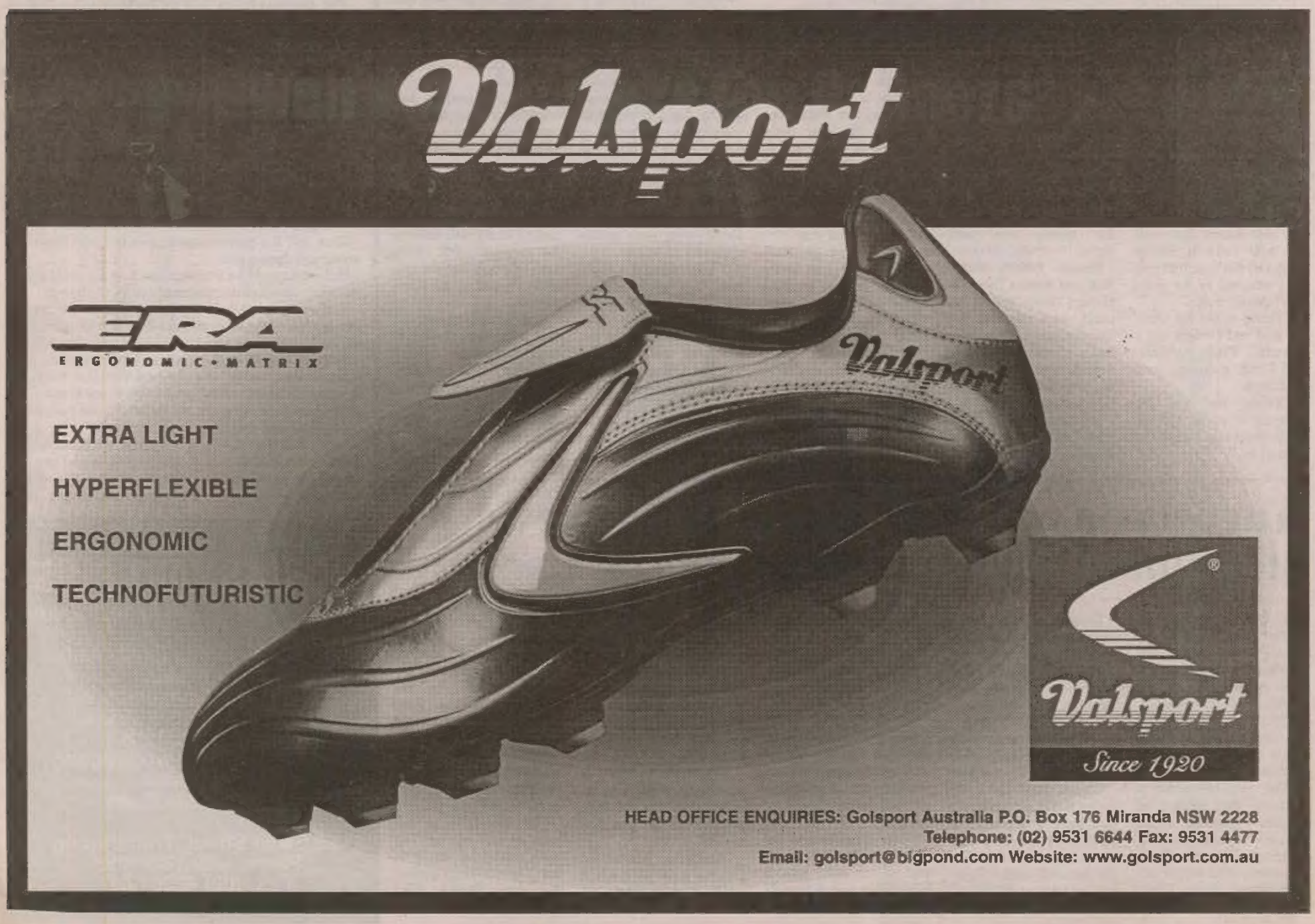
"A few other NSL clubs have made offers and enquired to what I'm doing but I would rather stay here.

"But considering the players I have helped bring to the club as well, it's very disappointing and you would have to question their loyalty.

"I traveled from Geelong to Melbourne so there's no problem going to Sydney if that happened.

"I'll just see what happens and take it from there.

"But the most important thing is to play out the rest of the season and try and win another Championship for Wollongong."



Leeds will meet cost of home rule

By Matt Dickinson

AUSSIE Mark Viduka: are he and fellow skippy Harry Kewell on their way from Leeds?

THEY entertained famously in a nine-month adventure, but Leeds United may yet do a far greater service than carrying English interest into the semi-finals of the European Cup.

An FA Carling Premiership race that lasts beyond Christmas is what the nation really yearns for and David O'Leary's team could be the best hope.

The Leeds manager certainly believes so and said as much before and after the 3-0 defeat by Valencia that marked the eighteenth and last game of an extraordinary European run.

"Our priority next season is to challenge Manchester United for the title," he said, and the target will come into even sharper focus if, as seems likely, they have only the distraction of the UEFA Cup.

Whether they possess the players to knock United off their perch is debatable, but they may get closer than Arsenal or Liverpool if they find their resources stretched by the Champions League.

Leeds have the thinnest squad of the four leading protagonists (five if you include Chelsea), but they rise to a challenge and what greater one than to deprive Sir Alex Ferguson of the championship in his last year.

Whatever the priority for next season, there will be new faces at Elland Road by the time that hair has returned to the players' shaven scalps.

"David might say three or four and I might say a couple," Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds chairman, said last week.

"David has got the players in mind and we have supported him to the hilt so far."

Ridsdale reiterated the club's policy of seeking out "young British players who can grow with the team" and he will draw heavily on this season's profits if the right ones become available.

"We had a figure nearer £10 million in mind for Rio Ferdinand this time last year," Ridsdale said, but he was not afraid to back his conviction with £18 million.

Some impeccable performances from the new captain have convinced long-standing critics that the money was well spent.

Francis Jeffers, Nicky Butt and Kieron Dyer are players who spring to mind, with all three fitting the necessary criteria and almost certainly available to those with big ambitions and even bigger cheques.

Most positions could do with strengthening and a dead-ball expert would be an invaluable addition because it is doubtful whether Ian Harte would merit a place, were he not the only reliable deliverer of a set-piece.

The amount available to spend would be significantly adjusted if Mark Viduka or Harry Kewell left and, while both players talk of their wish to stay, they are often contradicted by their body language on the pitch.

"Nobody has inquired about either," Ridsdale said, "and I would be disappointed if they were not with us next year.

"We have worked hard to get the players under contract and to provide them with a framework which keeps them motivated."

By framework, Ridsdale meant the establishment of a team collective in which impostors and passengers cannot survive.

Ferguson likes to describe Manchester United as a bus that waits for nobody and O'Leary, who is no less ruthless than his rival over the Pennines, is beginning to create a comparable momentum that should make the club capable of withstanding the loss of even the most talented player.

O'Leary told his squad on the flight home from Valencia to be proud of their achievement in reaching the semi-finals but, in one of the finest stadiums in Europe last Tuesday night, Leeds found their weaknesses exposed one by one.

"I think there is a European Cup in this team if we continue to build," Ferdinand said, but Leeds's place in the last four was made to look like vast overachievement when Valencia let loose their attacking might.

With a back line as formidable as any in Europe and a midfield of Pablo Aimar, Gaizka Mendieta and Kily González which flows through defensive holes like water through a sieve, Valencia will hope to improve upon last season, when they lost 3-0 to Real Madrid in the final.

"I would give my life to win it," Héctor Cúper, the coach, said.

Yet it was only a few months ago that Valencia supporters were grumbling about a misfiring team.

Cúper had become a victim of the expectations that he himself had raised and O'Leary will have to be conscious that Leeds fans will now believe that they are among Europe's elite.

They should remember that it has been three potless seasons since O'Leary succeeded George Graham and use that thought to spur on the championship challenge next year.

Yugoslavia chances remote as Savicevic steps into Djoric's empty boots

YUGSOLAVIA national team coach Milovan Djoric was sacked last week following a succession of poor results and lacklustre performances.

Djoric had been invited to stay on with the ruling body in another capacity but declined.

The temporary panel to run the side consists of former national team coach Vujadin Boskov, veteran playmaker Dejan Savicevic and soccer administrator Ivan Curkovic.

Djoric came under heavy media and political pressure to quit after his side lost 1-0 at home to Russia in a World Cup qualifier last month.

The result left Yugoslavia in fourth place in their group, with only five points from four matches.

Former Yugoslav international Dejan Savicevic said he was honoured to be part of the three-man panel appointed to coach the national team following the sacking of Djoric.

"I had no second thoughts about the Yugoslav Football Association's offer. I am honoured to be alongside the likes of Boskov and Curkovic," he told Belgrade's B 92 radio.

Djoric's three-month spell in charge ended with draws against Switzerland and Slovenia and the 1-0 home defeat by Russia.

Direct qualification for next year's finals in Japan and Korea now almost impossible and a playoff berth looking unlikely.

"My assignment is to be a link between the other two coaches and the players," Savicevic said.

"I know most of them very well as we had played for Yugoslavia together for quite some time.

"We have to meet as soon as possible and review the things that happened over the past few months.

"Relations within the national team were sound while I was there, we have to get that camaraderie back," he added.

Savicevic quit international soccer shortly before Euro 2000, but has recently been in good form for his club Rapid Vienna.

He said it was too early to say whether he would recall some of the veteran players axed by Djoric.

"It's too early to tell who we will rely on. The most important thing is for Yugoslavia to qualify for the World Cup finals," he said.

Bruce Campbell

TALKING FOOTBALL

IT'S A LONG time since I studied Latin and these days about the only thing I remember is *dominus, domnine, domineum*—or something like that.

I can't quite remember what the Queen said about her worst ever year, but that was in Latin and sounded something like *annus horobilis*.

I stress I'm not sure because the first word sounds familiar, but anyway you get the gist—a bitch of a year, a horrible year.

The NSL has had one of those too and just when things couldn't get any worse, or so you thought, up pops the Bobby Despotovski incident.

Sure there are a lot of morons watching football and any big game gets more of them, it stands to reason.

But the issue isn't how many loonies are at the game and what kind of trouble they will cause—it is how well they are controlled, or in this case, not controlled.

We actually want the increased possibility of crowd mis-behaviour because that comes with increased turnstile revenue.

At the Melbourne Knights v Perth Glory game there were two sets of loonies, the fan ones and the football ones.

The fans should have been better stewarded, the police should have been in amongst them and the Melbourne Knights, who have admitted that they knew the section of trouble makers, should have taken preventative measures.

That is good policing, it is common sense and if it had been done then the game would have passed by without any violence.

The other loonie was Bobby Despotovski.

OK, the argument that he incited the crowd with his silly finger salute is crap.

After all, how many would have seen it without the aid of camera close up.

But why did he do it at all?

You also have to question the responsibility of his club.

How much time has Perth Glory spent on educating their players about their individual responsibility and how to behave both on and off the field.

It might be OK for a rugby league player to stick his finger up someone's butt but it clearly isn't OK for a top paid player in the NSL to give the fans a racially reactionary salute.

But before everyone starts to jump and down about kicking the Knights out of the league let us first sort out the root cause of the problem.

Big games must be properly policed and players and officials must be schooled in how to behave.

Then, and if it happens again, kick out both Despotovski and the Knights.

Full marks to Mike Petersen and Paul Trimboli at the recent finals press conference in Wollongong.

Both went out of their way to comment on the positive aspects of the sport and did their best to deflect the media questions about the Despotovski incident.

Both are a credit to the game, and their genuine praise of Wollongong as a club and team is a lesson to many of the assembled media about how many great features of our game are ignored in the rush for cheap headlines and throw-away grabs.

Annus horibilus maybe, but it is still the beautiful game. We would do well to remember that and be careful that in our efforts to throw out the bath water we don't lose the baby—she is well worth saving.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
OFFICESMART PLUS
Wollongong
Stationery, Office Equipment & Furniture,
Computer Consumables
NAMCO & BROWNBUILT DISTRIBUTOR
Free Delivery in Wollongong
Accounts
PROP M&M Cuda
99 Swan Street, Wollongong
Phone (02) 4228 4666
Fax: (02) 4228 4667

Wolves switch on in finals time

DAVID CERVINSKI: looking set for a starting game against South Melbourne in the second leg

By Frank Risorto

WOLLONGONG Wolves defender Ben Blake believes his side's chances for the National Soccer League title has improved after their recent loss of form.

Disputes over the pay structure for the World Club Championships have been blamed for their recent poor form.

But once the financial side of things had been organised, the Wolves beat Northern Spirit 4-0 in one of their best performances of the season.

Then only four days later they beat Adelaide City 6-2 to take second spot from Perth Glory—grabbing a second chance in the finals in the process.

"We have had an up and down last four weeks," Blake said. "It was disappointing to lose to the Kingz but in recent games we seem to go to sleep defensively in the last ten minutes of the match.

"Against Northern Spirit we were great, we kept ourselves motivated and kept talking to each other for the whole 90 minutes.

"We were motivated to do well and not concede a goal and it showed with our performance.

"Against Adelaide City we went out in the mind frame that we had to win.

"We played quite well and should have scored a few more.

"When we went in at half time, we looked to be relaxing a little.

"So Ron Corry told us Perth was beating Canberra 2-1, so we had to score a few more goals.

"And that's probably the most promising thing about our form, that we are creating chances for our strikers and they are scoring."

Out of the 40 goals that Wollongong conceded this season over 25 were conceded in the second half and that's one area where Blake believes the Wolves defence need to improve.

"Our self discipline needs to improve along with our team discipline," Blake says.

"We have conceded a lot of silly goals in the second half of games and it could have cost us our second spot.

"But I am sure that for next weekend's game against South Melbourne we will be switched on for the whole ninety minutes again."

Sent off coach Marth thought he'd blown it

By Andrew Hamilton

PLAYER-coach Andrew Marth feared he'd blown his team's chances when he was sent off before his 10-man Melbourne Knights narrowly eliminated Perth Glory from the NSL title race.

Marth was dismissed for lashing out at controversial Glory striker Bobby Despotovski and his rash action could yet prove costly as the automatic one-match suspension will keep him out of the Minor Semi Final match.

He was forced to wait anxiously in the dressing room as the Glory fought back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 before the Knights finally advanced on the away goals rule.

Despotovski, the man at the centre of the off-field dramas that have dogged the sport since the Glory were attacked by irate Knights fans after the 0-0 first leg draw at Sunshine Stadium, was again in the thick of things in Saturday's elimination final return match at Subiaco Oval.

This time it was his niggling tactics that drew the angry response which saw Marth dismissed in the 67th minute.

Marth said his heart had never beaten faster than when he sat listening to the roar of the 31,710 fans as the home team cut back the deficit.

The Glory followed Knights goals by Adrian Cervinki in the fifth minute and Steve Horvat in the 28th with goals by Craig Deans - moments after Marth was banished - and then Brad Maloney with two minutes remaining.

"I've never had my heart pump so much in my life," Marth said.

"It's hugely disappointing and obviously as an established player I should know better.

"I got sucked in by Bobby and, unfortunately, I've got to pay the consequences."

Meanwhile, Bernd Stange, whose contract with the Glory has ended, may have coached his last game with the NSL club.

Despite Glory chairman Nick Tana's post-match claims a decision on Stange's future would be postponed, until "the dust had settled", it is widely believed the quarter final exit will cost the popular East German his job.

Marth said Stange should not be judged on one game, but on his achievement of raising the profile of soccer in Australia and his track record of steering Glory to the finals in each year of his tenure.

"I really think Bernd should be there next year," he said.

"I think he has done an exceptional job."

After the game Stange refused to search for excuses saying the better side had won on the night.

However, he asked to be judged on his win-loss record, and his role in building the club into the richest in the league, not the result of one drawn game in difficult playing conditions.

"If we are under pressure to win the grand final every year then I am definitely the wrong person," he said.

"We have an excellent win-loss record in the last three years, we have more international players than ever and we sold more players away from Perth Glory to overseas.

"The people who judge me should think about that, think about what we have achieved.

"I think I deserve to know that after three years, what I did for Perth Glory, what are the next steps and what are the expectations we should have."

No future for Knights Stadium slams Schwab

By Paul Millar

THE Melbourne Knights' stadium has no future in the national soccer league after the attack on Perth Glory players by a skinhead gang on Sunday, a players union boss said last week.

Australian Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Brendan Schwab said any ground which could not offer players adequate safety provisions should not be used for NSL matches.

Perth Glory players and coach Bernd Stange were attacked by a group of angry fans as they attempted to leave the Sunshine ground after the first leg of the elimination quarter final.

"There is certainly no future for this venue or for any other venue that cannot protect players within yards of the dressing room," Schwab said.

The Glory players were ambushed as they left the players' tunnel and had to retreat under a barrage of blows back into the change rooms.

Schwab said there were serious legal issues to be taken into account under the Occupational Health and Safety Act which Soccer Australia and the Knights would have to address.

"I think the level of support for the ground as an NSL venue among the players is also very low," he said.

"It's not just this ground, I think the adequacy of venues is not confined to the Knights Stadium."

The union has called for an independent inquiry to be set up to review incidents relating to the melee.

Soccer Australia is holding its own inquiry into the brawl and its board will meet this weekend to decide what action should be taken.

The board will also have to determine whether a three finger gesture by Perth striker Bobby Despotovski had inflamed the crowd and sparked the violence.

Serbian leaders have argued the gesture was a symbol of the holy trinity while Croatians, which provide the Melbourne side with most of its support, said it was a pro-Serbian military salute.

Despotovski has already been in trouble with the authorities earlier this season after allegedly racially taunting the Knights' African defender Ransford Banini.

It is unlikely that the Knights will be expelled from the competition for the attacks but they could be heavily fined and placed on the traditional good behaviour bond.

However they might also have to play some games behind closed doors which will financially cripple them.

But Bobby Despotovski's three finger salute was nothing more than a religious gesture, a Serbian leader has said.

Steve Pajic, the president of the Serbian National Federation, rejected suggestions that the Perth Glory player had even made a provocative gesture to the Knights' fans, who are predominantly of Croatian extraction.

"The three fingers across the heart is a religious thing, that sign means the holy trinity and goes back to the crusades," Pajic said.

"What's wrong with that? In Europe and Brazil they cross themselves during the game," he said.

"He did not want to provoke anybody," he said.

The suggestions coming from the Knights' camp however were exactly the opposite with officials saying the attack on Despotovski and the Perth players after the match was provoked by the symbolic salute.

Croatians argue that the gesture is a war-time victory salute by the Serbs.

Despotovski, of Serbian descent, originally denied making the signal but later admitted he did when it was shown by television networks.

Since then Despotovski has received death threats while there were also threats to blow up the Knights' team bus when the team arrived in Perth for the second leg.

Pajic said the problem had all stemmed from lack of security at Knights' Stadium.

"They've had these skinheads causing trouble in the past, they knew about them," he said.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
TOP SIX CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

SUPER SOCCER'S NSL CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

Ceccoli pass splits South

By Bruce Campbell

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

SOUTH Melbourne's Young Socceroo defender Patrick Kisnorbo was left contemplating the effect of a mis-timed tackle at the end of last Friday's Major Semi Final first leg match at Wollongong Stadium.

His lunging tackle on Scott Chipperfield saw referee Mark Shield blow for the penalty which led to Wollongong's vital one goal win.

Now the two teams go into Sunday's second leg in Melbourne with everything to play for.

But it certainly didn't look that way for long periods of the first half of Friday's match.

Wollongong seemed incapable of stringing more than two passes together and with Scott Chipperfield playing a deep wing back role the home side never looked capable of holding anything up at the front.

Their attack struggled to hold onto the few balls that it did get as South dominated most of the possession.

Their triumvirate of Con Boutsianis, Paul Trimboli and Vaughan Coveny were influential in that dominance, Boutsianis in particular having an excellent period.

And the little wizard ignored the 'criminal' taunts of the crowd to give South Melbourne a vital goal on the stroke of half time.

Robbie Stanton had needlessly hacked down Paul Trimboli from behind some 35 yards out.

Stanton was lucky not to be booked for the clumsy challenge which felled the South skipper but instead of Boutsianis lining up for one of his dangerous free kicks he played a quick ball to the wing before drifting into dangerous space on the left of the box.

Simon Colosimo raced down the line before sending a precision cross over to the danger man who drilled the ball past an exposed and helpless Dean Anastasiadis in the Wollongong goal.

However that score only cancelled out Wollongong's opener, scored by Saso Petrovski when he sliced home a shot in the six yard box after a Paul Reid corner had been knocked on by Robbie Stanton.

That was in the sixth minute but slowly after that South Melbourne took hold of the play.

The record crowd of 11,201 were stunned by the openness of the visiting side, with coach Mike Petersen's pre-match statement that they would play with an extra defender clearly a ploy.

In fact South showed more willingness to go forward than the strangely subdued home side.

But with the half ticking away Wollongong should have made it two when Alvin Ceccoli failed to get a Matt Horsley cross on target.

Instead the header was mistimed and went harmlessly past Michael Petkovic's upright.

A few minutes later Stuart Young could have scored also and with Wollongong now starting to come back into the game he cleverly laid off the ball to Horsley.

After interplay involving four other Wollongong players the Englishman was on the end of the move.

Petkovic finger tipped the shot away but only as far as Petrovski who blazed the acute angle shot over the bar with a galaxy of team-mates lining up in the box for a lay-off that never came.

Despite their inability to string a sequence together on the rare occasions that they did so the Wolves looked threatening.

Even although the Wolves had less of the play they had definitely created more chances and were on target for a half time lead until a rush of blood saw them blow their advantage.

That could have seen other sides crumble but instead an astute tactical change at half time saw Wollongong really emerge as the better team on the night.

Chipperfield moved into the hole behind the strikers, Young and Petrovski, and it was his industry and artistry that changed the direction of the game.

That was aided also by the decision by Petersen to replace Trimboli at half time.

Later he insisted that it was tactical rather than because of any injury but it seemed a strange change nonetheless.

With someone at last capable of holding the ball up the Wolves were a new side.

Matt Horsley also came more into play and his darting runs down the right flank created havoc for South Melbourne.

Boutsianis too was moved back into midfield as Petersen brought on a new South forward line of Andy Vlahos, Goran Lozanovski and Vas Kalogeracos.

Stanton paved the way for David Cervinski who came on to a huge roar from the home crowd.

Almost immediately Cervinski proved his worth with a series of blockbuster tackles.

The game was developing more and more into a clash of contrasting styles as it wore on.

South Melbourne with their patient European style build-up game were countered by the exuberance of the Wollongong rush and thunder play.

It certainly brought the best out of the large crowd and every time that Horsley broke down the right they became more vocal.

Ceccoli, too, was becoming more and more dominant as the game wore on and after 82 minutes he sent a brilliant through ball which led to the Wollongong winner.

Spotting Chipperfield with some space in the left midfield he drilled a thirty yard pass from deep in his own half which split the South Melbourne defence apart.

Chipperfield played a wonderful flick pass to evade his marker and then sped into goal with all the instinct of an exocet missile.

Young Patrick Kisnorbo then entered the scenario for the moment he will want to forget.

With Chipperfield baring down on goal he lunged sideways but the only thing his boot connected with were the striker's ankles.

Mark Shield had no hesitation in pointing to the spot, up stepped Young and he sent Petkovic the wrong way with a well struck shot to the 'keeper's left.

The crowd went berserk and with good reason.

Just minutes later Young could have made it three but he hooked his shot wide.

Despite the win Wollongong coach Ron Corry was not fooled.

"They are a good side," he said of South Melbourne.

"They are not Premiers for nothing and they showed that tonight.

"I'm surprised that they took Trimboli off, he is such an effective player.

"I thought that he was injured but we'll wait and see."

Scott Chipperfield looked subdued at the after-match press conference and took full blame for South Melbourne's equaliser.

"It was my fault, I'll stick my hand up for that," he told the large press contingent.

Petersen looked confident and will know full well that his side only have to score one goal to go straight into the Grand Final. But he may yet rue Kisnorbo's lack of experience which cost him a valuable away draw.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2 (Saso Petrovski 6', Stuart Young 83' pen)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Con Boutsianis 47+')
Yellow Cards: Simon Colosimo (SM) 70', Patrick Kisnorbo (SM) 83'
Venue: WIN Stadium
Referee: Mark Shield
Crowd: 11,201
WOLVES: Dean Anastasiadis (gk), George Souris, Alvin Ceccoli, Robert Stanton (David Cervinski 57'), Matthew Horsley, Paul Reid, Saso Petrovski, Stuart Young, Scott Chipperfield, David Huxley, Ben Blake
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Michael Petkovic (gk), Steve Iosifidis (Goran Lozanovski 45'), Fausto De Amicis, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Panopoulos, Vaughan Coveny (Vas Kalogeracos 57'), Paul Trimboli (Andy Vlahos 45'), Con Boutsianis, Zeljko Susa, Patrick Kisnorbo, Simon Colosimo

Knights stun Glory in shivering cold hell

PERTH GLORY 2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2

MELBOURNE Knights skipper Andrew Marth's pre-match prediction that Subiaco Oval would be a "hell hole" on Saturday night proved true in more ways than one when the Knights advanced to the NSL Minor Semi Final with a 2-2 draw with the Glory.

Melbourne advanced to the next round on away goals after the two legged tie finished at 2-2 after a 0-0 draw in the first leg.

It was hell for the 31,710 Glory fans who shivered their way through 90 minutes of agony in eight degree temperatures and bouts of teeming rain as their side's finals flame was extinguished by the well-organised visitors.

And it was a hell night for Marth when he was sent of in the 67th minute for lashing out at Bobby Despotovski.

But for the 10 Knights left on the pitch at the final siren and the handful of loyal fans who survived the wrath of Subiaco's squadron of private security personnel, it was closer to heaven on earth.

The Knights started the game with a pocket of about 50 vocal supporters but by the end of the match that number had dwindled as the beefed-up security earned their keep and removed any supporters seen waving Croatian flags.

The Glory were unable to cover the absence of suspended defender Jamie Harnwell and were cut apart by a series of set plays that that focused on the Knights' ability to dominate aerial contest inside the box.

The Glory had the first scoring opportunity in the second minute when Despotovski was crudely brought down on the edge of the square.

He laid his free kick off to strike partner Damian Mori but the shot went straight into the wall and the Knights were able to get out of danger.

It took the Knights less than five minutes to silence the Glory crowd.

The Glory were caught napping by a perfectly executed free kick when Lubo Lapsansky was awarded the second free kick of the evening courtesy of a clumsy challenge from Craig Deans.

Lapsansky's booted the free kick high and hard to captain Marth, who was free to steer a header into the path of Adrian Cervinski, who slammed it home unchallenged from seven metres.

The Knights nearly stretched their lead to two minutes later in an exact replay, this time Lapsansky's kick went to Steve Horvat who found Toto da Costa unmarked in the exact same spot that Cervinski had been so deadly from.

However, Glory keeper Jason Petkovic was equal to the considerable challenge with a brilliant diving one-handed deflection that had the Knights staring in disbelief.

But the Knights were clearly in control and there was a feeling it was only a matter of time before they struck again.

When the second goal came, it was a carbon copy of the first, this time Daniel Vasileski provided the header to Horvat 12 yards out and he belted the ball home.

It was not until Marth's challenge on Despotovski that the Glory were able to strike back, but by then it was too late.

The first goal came as Marth was still being escorted off the ground - Socceroo Scott Miller headed Kasey Wehrman's free kick wide of Knights keeper Martin John. Then, with less than two minutes remaining, Brad Maloney equalised after a clever ball from Mori.

PERTH GLORY 2 (Craig Deans 67', Brad Maloney 93+')
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 (Adrian Cervinski 6', Steve Horvat 29')
Yellow cards: Lubo Lapsansky (MK) 17', Gareth Naven (PG) 27' Red Cards: Andrew Marth (MK) 66'
Venue: Subiaco Oval Crowd: 31,710
PERTH: Jason Petkovic (gk), Ljubo Milicevic, Gareth Naven, Scott Miller, Alistair Edwards (Brad Maloney 57'), Bobby Despotovski, Kasey Wehrman, Edgar Junior (Nick Mrdja 57'), Damian Mori, Gary Faria, Craig Deans (Dion Valle 83')
KNIGHTS: Lupce Acevski (gk), Daniel Vasilevski, Rodrigo Vargas, Sasa Ognenovski, Joel Porter (Joey Rajher 89'), Andy Vargas (Ivan Jolic 68'), Toto Da Costa, Steve Horvat, Adrian Cervinski (Jason Vukadin 87'), Andrew Marth, Lubo Lapsansky

SYMES WARNE & ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Symes Warne & Associates is one of the largest and most respected financial planning firms in the Illawarra and Southern Sydney regions. Our staff have the training, expertise and research facilities to deliver comprehensive advice on all aspects of investment, retirement and risk management. Being independently owned ensures that the products and strategies recommended by our advisers suit your individual needs.

Level 1, 166 Keira Street
Wollongong
Ph: 4229 2122
www.symeswarne.com.au
Licensed Life Broker
Licensed Dealer in Securities
ABN 25 002 495 098

FPA
FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION
of Australia Limited

SUPER SOCCER'S NSL CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

Cardozo sinks final nail into Stallions

SYDNEY Olympic has clinically cruised past the Marconi Stallions and progressed to a semi-final against the Melbourne Knights, after a 2-0 victory in the return leg of their quarter final at Marconi Stadium on Sunday night.

The Stallions were under the pump after the previous week's 3-1 first leg loss and could not match the well drilled Olympic side.

Coach Eddie Krncevic took desperate measures to match his side's parlous position, making seven changes to the team that went down to Olympic at Belmore Sports Ground last weekend and it seemed to do the trick early on.

MARCONI STALLIONS 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2

The Stallions managed to shut down Olympic's midfield star Troy Halpin in the opening 30 minutes and create some opportunities of their own on the edge of the square.

But the effort amounted to nothing as Olympic broke the shackles with the first goal in the 35th minute.

Scott Baillie headed a looping Halpin corner, the deflection finding playmaker Pablo Cardozo who was on the spot to head home for a 1-0 lead.

Requiring at least three goals to stay alive, the sum total of the Stallions last two months of scoring, Marconi was once again more frugal than profligate.

Returning striker Archie Thompson tried hard but was a forlorn figure as he failed to get the service he required from an impotent midfield.

The home side effectively fell on its sword in the 62nd minute when Olympic captain Ante Juric drifted a ball across to Cardozo who found Kresimir Marusic lurking on the left wing.

The midfielder hit the inside of the left post giving the visitors a 2-0 lead, ending Marconi's season in the process.

Olympic look certain to lose Greg Owens one way or another next week with the young striker suffering an ankle injury in the match.

He has also been named in the national under 20 team that heads to the East Asian Games on Tuesday.

Marconi will have plenty of time to contemplate it's 2001/02 season and may look to a new coach and much needed depth in the midfield.

Scott Baillie: a stand-out in the Olympic defence against Marconi

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Pablo Cardozo 35', Kresimir Marusic 62') MARCONI STALLIONS 0
Yellow Cards: Simon Bell (MS) 36', Angelo Costanzo (MS) 37', George Goutzioulis 56'
Red Cards: Simon Bell (MS) 60'
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Referee: Gerard Connolly
Crowd: 6,087
MARCONI: Michael Turnbull (gk), Angelo Costanzo, Dominic Longo, Pan Keun Kim, Saso Radulovic (Kris Trajanovski 64'), Royce Brownlie (John Maisano 68'), John Gibson (Christian Care 64'), Simon Bell, Brendan Renaud, Vlado Zoric, Archie Thompson
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Clint Bolton (gk), Paul Kohler, Scott Baillie, Ante Juric, Kresimir Marusic, Troy Halpin (Damon Collina 84'), George Goutzioulis (Nick Carle 76'), Greg Owens (Peter Zorbas 40'), Elias Angerinos, Pablo Cardozo, Andrew Packer

2001 NSL Minor Semi Final

Sunday 20 May

Sydney Olympic

V

Melbourne Knights

KICK OFF 6:00pm Parramatta Stadium

This MATCH Proudly Sponsored by Accent Car Rentals • SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • BRISBANE • CAIRNS • ADELAIDE

ALL THE NSL CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION ....

Grand Final venue still in the melting pot

By Bruce Campbell

IN most seasons the venue for the Grand Final is not a major talking point.

Simply put, the club which wins its way into the big game first up also gets the home city advantage.

But season 2000/2001 has been anything but an average season.

Instead it has been the season where everything which could go wrong in the game has, and, with still another three weeks to go before the end of the NSL season there is still a bit of time for another disaster or two.

That makes the decision by Soccer Australia to move the Grand Final to Sydney, should the Wolves defy the odds and beat South Melbourne in the two legged Major semi Final, very topical.

It would be the first time in the 25 year history of the league that it has been staged anywhere but the home city of the winning club.

"I think the question isn't all that appropriate just now," says Wollongong director Doug Symes.

"Firstly we have to see who is going to be the two teams and then the decision has to be made.

"It's more about one step at a time and for the Wolves that means trying to get to the Grand Final first."

Symes smiles at the suggestion that his board has already discussed a contingency plan should Soccer Australia attempt to snatch the big game away but really won't be drawn too much.

"If we hit that situation we will make representation to Soccer Australia," he concedes.

"I am no different from every Wollongong fan, and I want to see a Grand Final here."

But the big sticking point is the lack of facilities at Wollongong Stadium.

Its capacity is also considered to be below par.

Rugby league claims that the ground has had fifteen thousand plus but it is hard to see how it would hold much more than ten or eleven with any degree of comfort.

Seating is also at a premium.

But that still doesn't disguise the fact that should Wollongong win the tie with South Melbourne then they have earned the right to have the big game.

Ace forward Scott Chipperfield agrees.

"As a local boy it would be something special for me if the game was played in my home town," he says.

"It would be a great way to round off my career with the Wolves."

Chipperfield is likely to be heading overseas immediately after the Grand Final and Socceroo commitments and he relishes the chance to showcase his talent just one more time in Wollongong.

Coach Ron Corry also, not surprisingly, agrees—but wants to get each game out of the way first.

"It's not an issue for me yet," he says.

"I am focusing on the South Melbourne match first.

"That is what we are concentrating on just now."

At a media conference last week Corry gave a glimpse of how he sees the situation panning out, maybe a better reflection on the current argument about just where the Grand Final will be played.

"I think there will be another game played at Wollongong Stadium," he told an inquisitive journalist.

Despite the lack of the enquirer's knowledge Corry was referring to the fact that the loser of the South Melbourne tie will have home ground advantage in the Preliminary Final. So it might just be that the whole question is academic anyway.

"Soccer Australia will look at the situation if Wollongong does win the tie and they play against say Perth or South Melbourne.

"But if they are going to play Sydney Olympic then it would make a lot of sense to play the game at a venue like Parramatta Stadium or the Sydney Football Stadium because of the large crowd which could be expected.

"Soccer Australia are aware of the feelings of people and it will be looked as the situation develops and we see just who is going to be in the Grand Final."

Moretti has also clarified the situation regarding a possible Melbourne Grand Final.

Despite media speculation that the showcase game would be played at Colonial Stadium on a Monday night, the only day available because of AFL commitments, Soccer Australia has ruled that option out.

Instead the game will be played on Sunday June 3—regardless of which city hosts the glamour event.

CON BOUTSIANIS: the brilliant South Melbourne playmaker is sure to be a big hit wherever the 2001 Grand Final is set to be played. After a troublesome personal year the little master is bang on form and could well feature in the Joe Marston Medal award—if South make the big date.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
TOP SIX CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
2000~2001

Wolves players still off contract

THE future of up to six Wollongong players is expected to be revealed this week as the NSL club's long term strength hangs in the balance.

The Wolves, who take on South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday night, have 11 players off contract including captain Matt Horsley and Socceroo striker Scott Chipperfield.

While the Perth Glory-linked Chipperfield is unlikely to make a decision until after the finals, Wolves general manager Graeme Haney is hopeful at least six players will reveal their plans within a few days.

"Usually by this stage we would have had a few more re-signed," Haney said.

Scott Chipperfield: one of the many off-contract players at Wollongong

"However, with the Oceania championship and Spain (world club championship) there's been a few distractions and a few of them have offers they are still considering.

"I'm expecting to have contact with probably half a dozen players in the next couple of days.

"I don't know whether they'll be all finalised but I'm hopeful of getting a few more answers by the end of the week."

Haney said it was a little destabilising to have question marks over a large group of players going into an important finals series but he was confident the majority of the squad would be retained.

"Right now there's a few more out than we'd usually expect but I don't think it's anything to get too worried about," he said.

SuperSoccer
bringing you the great world of football every Tuesday

WORLD GAME

IT'S THE BEAUTIFUL

NSW FEDERATION FOOTBALL

SOCCER FEDERATION N·S·W

enquiries 02 9629 1800

www.soccernsw.com.au

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21, U18): ROUND 10

Sun 20-May	Fraser Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Fraser Park Jets	v	Bankstown City Lions
Sun 20-May	St George Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Hurstville City Minotaurs	v	Fairfield Bulls
Sun 20-May	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Stanmore Hawks	v	Dulwich Hill
Sun 20-May	Hajduk Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Hajduk Wanderers	v	Rockdale City Suns
Sun 20-May	Abruzzi Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	AC United	v	Macarthur Rams
Sun 20-May	Cromer Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	M.S.C Liverpool

Rescheduled Game: Round 5: MSC Liverpool v Stanmore: 21s & 18s Tues 15 May 8:00pm & 6:15pm and 1sts Tues 22 May 7:30pm Hammondville Park

DIVISION ONE (1ST, U21, U18): ROUND 10

Sat 19-May	Calabria Sports	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	White City	v	Sydney University
Sun 20-May	Alec Lamberton	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Bathurst '75	v	Belmore Hercules
Sun 20-May	Bathurst Street	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Greystanes	v	Hills United
Sun 20-May	Mona Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Auburn United	v	Mt Druitt Town Rangers
Sun 20-May	Macedonia Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Illawarra Lions	v	Ryde City
Sun 20-May	Cook Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Mt Pritchard	v	Hurstville ZSC

DIVISION TWO (1ST, U21, U18): ROUND 10

Sat 19-May	Eric Primrose Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Parramatta City	v	The Wanderers
Sat 19-May	Cook Park St Marys	7:00 PM	5:00 PM	3:00 PM	Nepean Association	v	Hakoah
Sun 20-May	Knight Park (4)	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Western Sydney Lions	v	Central Coast Lakers
Sun 20-May	Holy Cross College	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Concord FC	v	University of NSW
Sun 20-May	Ron Dine Reserve	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Camden Tigers	v	Petersham Sydney District
Sun 20-May	Calabria Sports Grd	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Western Rage	v	Balmain

Rescheduled Game: Round 8: Concord Fc v Hakoah, 1sts Thurs 17 May 7:30pm Sid Richards No.2

DIVISION THREE (1ST, RESERVES): ROUND 9

Sat 19-May	William Lawson Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Prospect United	v	Springwood
				Trasandinos		(Bye)
Sun 20-May	Ernie Smith Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Liverpool City	v	Hawkesbury City
Sun 20-May	Kellyville Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Kellyville Kolts	v	Granville Greenisland
Sat 19-May	Beamen Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	United Eagles	v	Sydney Crescent Star
Sun 20-May	Island Bridge Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Colo Colo	v	Auburn Star

DIVISION FOUR (1ST, RESERVES): ROUND 9

				Sporting SCC	v	(Bye)
Sat 19-May	CSI Club	6.00 pm	4.00 pm	Schofields Scorpions	v	Gladesville United
Sun 20-May	UTS Campus Lindfield	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	UTS	v	Western Sydney Passion
Sun 20-May	Jardine Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Bossy	v	Fairfield City
Sun 20-May	Lithgow Greyhound Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Lithgow Workmen	v	Kosciusko
Sat 19-May	Ron Routley Oval	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Inter Lions	v	Liverpool Olympic

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21): ROUND 9

Sun 20-May	Mingara Club	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Central Coast Lakers	v	Wollongong Wolves
Sun 20-May	Seymour Shaw	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Sutherland Sharks	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 20-May	Morrison Bay 2	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	North West Sydney Koalas	v	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Sun 20-May	Club Marconi 2	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Marconi	v	NSW Academy
Sun 20-May	Cook Park St Marys	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Nepean Association	v	NNSW Academy

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE (1ST, U19): ROUND 11

Sun 20-May	Proctor Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Bathurst City Panthers	v	UWS Wolves Campbelltown
Sun 20-May	Pluim Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Coastles	v	UTS
				(Bye)	v	St George Association
Sun 20-May	Peel Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	The Ravens	v	Roselands Raptors
Sun 20-May	Garside Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Granville Association	v	Petersham Sydney District
Sun 20-May	CSI Club	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Inter Lions/CSI	v	Macarthur Rams

GIRL'S YOUTH LEAGUE (U16, U14): ROUND 9

				Blacktown		Bye
Sun 20-May	Club Marconi 2	11.15am	10.00am	Marconi	v	Ku-Ring-Gai
				Nepean		Bye
				Bye		Central Coast Coasties
Sun 20-May	Lynwood Park	11.15am	10.00am	Macarthur Rams	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 20-May	Brandon Park 2	2.00pm	12.30pm	Wollongong Wolves	v	Manly Warringah
Sun 20-May	Peakhurst 5	11.15am	10.00am	Bye	v	Southern Branch
Sun 20-May	Morrison Bay 2	11.15am	10.00am	North West Sydney GYL	v	Campbelltown Macarthur
Fri 18-May	Jenson Park	8.15pm	7.00pm	Bankstown	v	Sutherland

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE (U13, U14, U15, U17): ROUND 10

Sat 19-May	Macquarie Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Newcastle United	v	Fairfield Bulls
Sat 19-May	Sydney Utd Sports	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Sydney United	v	Bankstown City Cubs
Sat 19-May	Cromer Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	Penrith Panthers
Sat 19-May	Marconi No 2	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Marconi Stallions	v	Eastern Suburbs Wanderers
Sat 19-May	Marrickville Oval	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Canterbury Marrickville	v	Blacktown City Demons
Sat 19-May	Seymour Shaw	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Sutherland Shire	v	Northern Spirit
Sat 19-May	Potts Park	11.30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Sydney Olympic	v	Macarthur Rams
Sat 19-May	Lambert Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4.15 PM	Leichhardt Tigers	v	Central Coast Coasties
Sat 19-May	Melita Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Parramatta Eagles	v	Wollongong Wolves
Sat 19-May	St George Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	St George	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles

SUPER CADET LEAGUE (U11, U12): ROUND 10

Sat 19-May	Marrickville Oval	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Canterbury Marrickville	v	Blacktown City Demons
Sat 19-May	Seymour Shaw	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Sutherland Shire	v	Northern Spirit
Sat 19-May	Potts Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Sydney Olympic	v	Macarthur Rams
Sat 19-May	Lambert Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Leichhardt Tigers	v	Central Coast Coasties
Sat 19-May	Melita Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v	Wollongong Wolves
Sat 19-May	St George Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	St George	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Sun 20-May	Marconi No 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Marconi Stallions	v	Eastern Suburbs Wanderers
Sun 20-May	Allambie Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sydney United	v	Bankstown City Cubs
Sun 20-May	Cromer Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	Penrith Panthers
				Fairfield Bulls		Bye

DIVISION ONE YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16): ROUND 10

Sat 19-May	Fred Caterson	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	1:15 PM	Hills United	v	Ku-Ring-Gai Association
Sat 19-May	Cook Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Nepean Association	v	AC United
Sat 19-May	Cook Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mt Pritchard	v	Blacktown Association
Sat 19-May	Macedonia Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Illawarra Lions	v	Ryde City
Sat 19-May	Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	v	Central Coast Lakers
Sat 19-May	Pratten Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Stanmore Hawks	v	Southern Branch

DIVISION ONE CADETS (U11, U12): ROUND 10

Sun 20-May	Macedonia Field	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Illawarra Lions	v	Schofields Scorpions
Sun 20-May	Hajduk Stadium	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hajduk Wanderers	v	Rockdale City Suns
Sun 20-May	Ron Dine Reserve	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Camden Tigers	v	Central Coast Lakers
Sun 20-May	Popondetta Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	v	Mt Pritchard
Sun 20-May	Abruzzi Oval	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	AC United	v	Hawkesbury City
Sun 20-May	Eric Primrose Reserve	10:00 AM	11.00 AM	Parramatta City	v	Hurstville City Minotaurs
Sun 20-May	Magdala Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Ryde City	v	Stanmore Hawks
Sun 20-May	Fred Caterson Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hills United	v	MSC Liverpool

DIVISION TWO YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16): ROUND 9

Sat 19-May	CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	1:15 PM	Schofield Scorpions	v	Parramatta City
Sat 19-May	Ron Dine Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Camden Tigers	v	Rockdale City
Sat 19-May	Arlington Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	v	Mt Druitt Town
Sat 19-May	Hurstville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hurstville City Minatours	v	MSC Liverpool
Sat 19-May	Benson's Lane	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hawkesbury City	v	Granville Association

SUPER SOCCER'S EURO BIG MATCH REPORT

Valencia go through to second final

VALENCIA have reached the Champions League final for the second successive year as Juan Sanchez struck twice and Gaizka Mendieta fired in a third to give them an emphatic 3-0 victory over Leeds in their semi-final second leg at Mestalla.

After a goalless draw at Elland Road in the first leg, Leeds were still in with an excellent chance even after Sanchez's first goal, which he bundled in with his shoulder on 15 minutes after Mendieta's precision cross.

But two goals in the opening seven minutes of the second half put the English premier side out of the equation.

Sanchez, seeing John Carew and Pablo Aimar well marked and the Leeds defence backing off, took the ball across the face of the area before driving in at Nigel Martyn's left-hand post after 47 minutes.

Mendieta wasted a great chance two minutes later after Aimar's through-ball sent him clear on goal only for his first touch to let him down and allow Martyn to claim.

The Valencia skipper made no mistake with his second opportunity, though, as he unleashed a superb right-foot shot that flashed past the Leeds keeper to almost the exact same spot as Sanchez's second goal.

Victory for Valencia sets up the possibility of a final rematch against Real Madrid, who beat them 3-0 in Paris last year.

For Leeds, defeat was a sad end to their European adventure, in which they had defied the odds to move to the brink of their first European Cup final since 1975, when they lost to Bayern.

The team clearly missed the skill and drive of Lee Bowyer, who was suspended for three games at the 11th hour for an incident in the first leg.

In the opening stages of the match, Leeds hopes of an early goal to put them well in control of the tie were frustrated as David Albelda played a stopper's role just in front of the back four and prevented the English side making headway through the middle.

Their best hope of creating something appeared to be down the wings and twice in the first 10 minutes Danny Mills and Harry Kewell got in dangerous positions only to see their crosses cleared.

Mendieta had tried his luck with a couple of efforts from outside the box, the first bringing a diving save from Martyn.

One sharp piece of thinking from Kily Gonzalez led to the opening goal on the quarter-hour mark.

Kily, picking up a loose ball in midfield, put in a first-time pass that Mendieta controlled to the right of the Leeds area.

The Spanish international midfielder sent in a weighted cross that bounced before Sanchez met it awkwardly with his shoulder to send the ball past the exposed Martyn.

Kily, breaking on the left, showed Eirik Bakke a clean pair of heels and claimed a penalty as he was shouldered off the ball on the edge of the box.

Swiss referee Urs Meier instead awarded a corner and, after a desperate clearance resulted in another, Ayala headed just over.

Leeds had a couple of half-chances but Valencia came closer to adding to their tally, with Sanchez striking a post when he seemed set to complete his hat-trick and Mendieta forcing a save from Martyn.

Leeds misery was completed when forward Alan Smith was sent off in the last minute for a challenge from behind on Didier Deschamps.

"I have no sympathy for him," he said.

"I think he's a great lad and he'll be a fine player but it was a disgraceful tackle and it was right that he was sent off."

"They've made two Champions League finals in two years and I now wish them all the best. They're a fantastic side and I hope they go on and win the final. They deserve it."

Valencia coach Hector Cuper urged his players to go on and finish the job.

"Experience will teach us that we can't afford to repeat the mistakes of last season," said Cuper, whose side appeared to be overwhelmed by the occasion last year.

"The players will know they can't let this opportunity slip by. It depends on them and they must give it everything to bring home the title, it's going to be difficult, though."

For Cuper it will be a third successive final after his Real Mallorca side were beaten by Lazio in the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1999 and last year's disappointing defeat to Real Madrid in the Champions League final.

Champions League semi-final (second leg)
Valencia: 1-Santiago Canizares; 20-Jocelyn Angloma, 12-Fabian Ayala, 2-Mauricio Pellegrino, 34-Fabio Aurelio; 23-David Albelda, 6-Gaizka Mendieta, 35-Pablo Aimar, 18-Kily Gonzalez; 7-John Carew, 17-Juan Sanchez
Leeds United: 1-Nigel Martyn; 18-Danny Mills, 29-Rio Ferdinand, 21-Dominic Matteo, 3-Ian Harte; 4-Olivier Dacourt, 23-David Batty, 19-Eirik Bakke, 10-Harry Kewell; 9-Mark Viduka 17-Alan Smith

Bayern hang on for Euro final spot

BAYERN Munich overwhelmed holders Real Madrid 2-1 in a thrilling Champions League semi-final to line up a final against last season's runners-up Valencia on May 23 in Milan.

Bayern, who won the first leg of the semi-final 1-0 in Madrid last week, were determined to reach their seventh European Cup final and went on the attack straight from kick-off.

They were rewarded after eight minutes when Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas fumbled a clearance and Brazilian Elber headed home his sixth goal of the competition.

But the Bayern faithful were stunned into silence 10 minutes later when Raul rounded Thomas Linke and passed to Luis Figo who steered the ball past Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn. Ottmar Hitzfeld's men kept up their attacks with Champions League debutant and England Under-21 Owen Hargreaves showing tremendous poise alongside Mehmet Scholl in midfield.

The German champions went 2-1 up on the night, and 3-1 on aggregate, in the 34th minute when Jens Jeremies was left unmarked after a cleverly-worked free-kick by Scholl to fire home from outside the area.

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer said: "If you beat Real and Man Utd twice, then you have earned your place in the final."

"Just how coolly Owen Hargreaves played against a team like Real I'd never have believed it."

Bayern occasionally found the pace of Roberto Carlos hard to counter but solid defending by Kuffour and Andersson kept Real out.

Savio looked threatening after he came on for Steve McManaman, with some great running down the wing.

His cross in the 70th minute found fellow substitute Fernando Morientes in space, but Morientes' header was high.

The final at the San Siro stadium features the losers of the last two Champions League finals.

Bayern last won Europe's premier club competition in 1976, when they lifted the trophy for the third year running.

Bayern Munich trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld said his team's "fantastic" 2-1 win over Real Madrid to secure their place in the final was a testament to their strength at home.

Bayern have lost just three out of 74 home European Cup and Champions League games and have never lost at home by more than one goal.

"My team put in a fantastic performance. And we are a team that can always score goals at home," Hitzfeld said.

"It was a sensational performance to beat Real twice. It's great to be in the final."

Brazilian striker Elber joked about the rash of injuries which have plagued Bayern.

"My goal is dedicated to the medical team (team doctor) Mueller-Wohlfahrt. Without his excellent work I wouldn't have been here," Elber said.

Scholl warned against getting too excited ahead of the final, particularly with 1999 in mind.

"We haven't done it yet. Valencia are a dangerous side and we have a brutal game ahead of us," Scholl said.

Champions League semi-final (second leg)
Bayern Munich: 1-Oliver Kahn; 4-Sammy Kuffour, 5-Patrik Andersson, 25-Thomas Linke; 2-Willy Sagnol, 6-Jens Jeremies, 23-Owen Hargreaves, 3-Bixente Lizarazu; 7-Mehmet Scholl, 20-Hasan Salihamidzic, 9-Elber

Real Madrid: 25-Iker Casillas; 2-Michel Salgado, 18-Aitor Karanka, 4-Fernando Hierro, 3-Roberto Carlos; 6-Ivan Helguera, 24-Claude Makelele, 10-Luis Figo, 8-Steve McManaman; 7-Raul, 14-Guti
Referee: Kim Milton Nielsen (Denmark)

Owen double sinks the Gunners

LIVERPOOL won their second trophy of the season Saturday lifting the FA Cup by beating Arsenal coming from 1-0 down to win 2-1 thanks to two goals from England international Michael Owen at the Millennium Stadium.

Liverpool had claimed the League Cup earlier this year and can claim a third on Wednesday if they beat Spanish side Alaves in the UEFA Cup final in Germany.

Owen, who is in a rich vein of form lifting his tally to eight goals in four matches, struck twice in the final seven minutes to pull off a win that looked far from likely.

The 21-year-old English international struck first in the 83rd minute reacted first to a corner from substitute Gary McAllister and five minutes later latched on to a long through ball from Patrik Berger before coolly slotting past England goalkeeper David Seaman.

"I will go to sleep remembering this every night for the rest of my life," he said.

"It's fantastic but while there is the UEFA Cup final on Wednesday our main one is to beat Charlton next weekend and qualify for the Champions League," he added.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier conceded Arsenal had been the better team for much of the match. "They were the better side, they are a counter-attacking side too," he said.

"McAllister gave more flow in the game. I was not happy with the area where things should start from."

Fellow Frenchman Arsene Wenger was left to contemplate a trophy less season.

"We did not score from the chances we created and on the first Liverpool goal we were not determined enough to clear it," he said. "If you don't take your chances, Liverpool is going to punish you," he said.

It was an amazing comeback from Liverpool who had earlier survived three goal-line scares.

Played in by felllow midfielder Robert Pires, Ljungberg calmly rounded goalkeeper Sander Westerveld before rifling the ball home in the 72nd minute to give Arsenal a deserved lead.

Not long before his goal Ljungberg missed a glorious chance.

In the 67th minute the ball broke to him on the edge of the box after a forceful run from Henry only for Ljungberg to see his chip over Westerveld headed clear by Liverpool captain Sami Hyppia when the Arsenal man had the whole of the goal to aim at.

Houllier then gambled on a 77th minute double substitution Patrik Berger and Robbie Fowler replacing Danny Murphy and Vladimir Smicer respectively.

Whatever Houllier said to his team during the interval after a tepid first half display clearly had some effect.

In the 48th minute a Murphy free-kick from the right found the head of striker Emile Heskey, who saw his powerful effort blocked by Seaman.

Arsenal responded by increasing their tempo and only a last ditch intervention by Hyppia prevented them taking the lead in the 57th minute.

Pires lofted a cute through ball over the top of the Liverpool defence to Henry.

However, the striker's shot was blocked by Westerveld.

The rebound broke to Arsenal and England left-back Ashley Cole, whose shot was cleared off the line by Hyypia.

On the hour mark Hamann was replaced by McAllister, a noted dead-ball specialist, a crucial change as it turned out.

In an otherwise dull first half Arsenal should have taken the lead in the 17th minute through Henry in what was the only clearcut chance in a tight first half.

The France forward rounded Westerveld, but his shot from outside the right post was blocked by the arm of Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz, covering back on the goal line.

However, while Houllier brushed aside suggestions it was a penalty Wenger was adamant for all that it was worth that his side should have had one.

"It was a clear handball, Thierry told me that as well," he said.

Liverpool struggled to break down Arsenal's back four, despite the club's rearguard having a combined age of 142.

Venue: Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, Wales. Crowd: 72,500
Referee: Steve Dunn (England)
Arsenal: 1-David Seaman; 2-Lee Dixon, 6-Tony Adams, 5-Martin Keown, 29-Ashley Cole; 7-Robert Pires, 18-Gilles Grimandi, 4-Patrick Vieira, 8-Fredrik Ljungberg; 14-Thierry Henry, 11-Sylvain Wiltord.
Liverpool: 1-Sander Westerveld; 6-Markus Babbel, 12-Sami Hyypia, 2-Stephane Henchoz, 23-Jamie Carragher; 7-Vladimir Smicer, 17-Steven Gerrard, 13-Danny Murphy, 16-Dietmar Hamann; 10-Michael Owen, 8-Emile Heskey.

SUPER SOCCER'S YOUTH LEAGUE BIG MATCH REPORT

Stephan leads Bulls to a stunning win over Marconi

By David Lowndes

FAIRFIELD BULLS 2
MARCONI STALLIONS 1

FAIRFIELD Bulls scored a stunning 2-1 home victory over Marconi Stallions in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Nineveh Field in the NSW Super Youth League Under 17 competition.

Both teams took the field under clear skies on a firm pitch that appeared unaffected by last week's big wet.

The Bulls had the better of the opening exchanges with striker Stephan prominent, causing the Stallions defence problems with his incisive running in and around the penalty area.

However the Marconi defenders led by D'arrigo and Cahill proved to be more than equal to the challenge.

With both teams resolute at the back it was not surprising to see several long range shots with Cappuccio testing the Stallions keeper Ryan from 30 metres and Marconi captain Polito doing the same at the other end with both shots sailing just over the cross bar.

As the first half progressed the Stallions appeared to be the more dominant side led by Polito and the dangerous Ripepi without creating any clear cut chances, a credit to the defence of the Bulls who continued to battle hard.

Bulls central defender Casamento decided to make his mark in the 15th minute of the game with a fine 60 metre run upfield, leaving several Marconi players in his wake, then providing a lovely through ball to the never-say-die Stephan who forced Marconi keeper Ryan to dive at his feet to win an exciting 50/50 challenge and leave the Bulls wondering what they had to do to get on the score sheet.

As everyone was preparing for a 0-0 half time score-line Marconi put in one last effort which saw a fine run down the right wing by Ugur who then put in a fantastic cross resulting in a goal mouth scramble.

The ball then somehow found its way out to a unmarked left back Duffell who promptly slammed the ball home from just inside the penalty area to give the Stallions a 1-0 lead at the break.

With the confidence gained from their late first half goal, Marconi attacked from the restart but could not get in any real clear chances.

The Bulls refused to lie down and began to counter attack with Mihalj making a good run into the Stallions penalty area only to see his cross find an empty goal-mouth.

The home side were now gaining in confidence but couldn't capitalize on their chances with the last touch going astray or Marconi keeper Ryan coming to the rescue like he did in the 61st minute when he tipped a fierce strike from the Bulls Cappuccio over the bar.

The Bulls finally got their just reward when substitute Talia made a strong run deep into the penalty area and after having his shot blocked, the ball found its way to the ever present Stephan who calmly slotted home the equalizer from 8 yards.

This set the scene for a thrilling last 15 minutes which saw the home side come at the Stallions time and time again only to be denied.

With three minutes remaining it appeared that both teams would share the points until Bulls midfielder Liccardello became involved in a goal-mouth scramble and poked the ball over the line to give his side the lead and leave the visitors stunned.

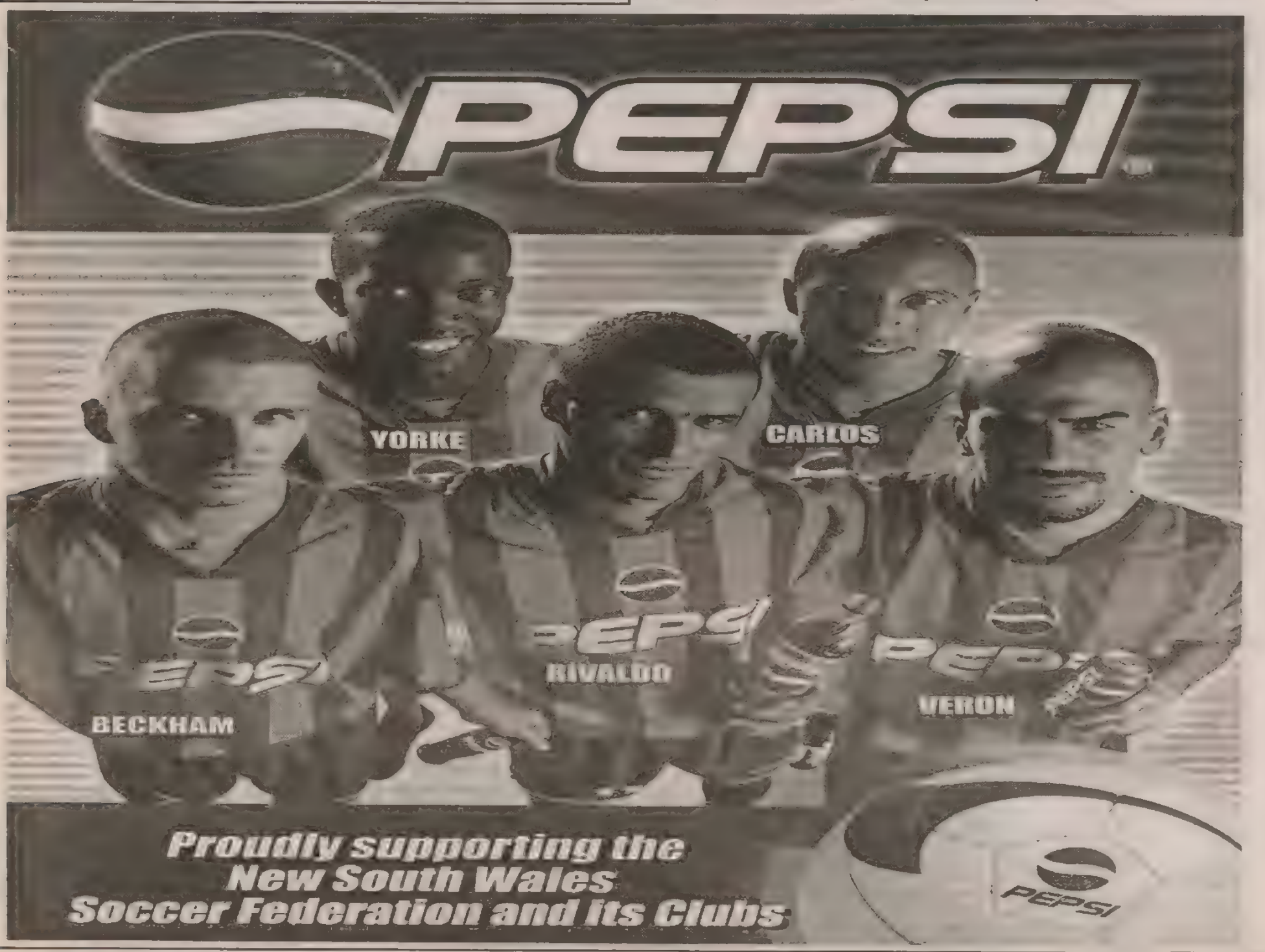
The home side hung on to record a very memorable victory and send their supporters home extremely happy with the result.

Standout players for the Bulls were Stephan, Fernando, Casamento and second half substitute Talia who had a hand in both the goals.

Marconi was best served by keeper Ryan, defenders Cahill and D'Arrigo, Ripepi and captain Polito.

NSW Super Youth League U/17
Fairfield Bulls 2 (Stephan 64m, Liccardello 77m)
Marconi Stallions 1 (Duffell 39m)
Ground: Nineveh Field
Referee: Belinda O'Connor

Fairfield Bulls: Nehme, Gaete, Fernando, Desouza, Padovan, Liccardello, Mihalj (Parker 78m), Meura (Talia 61m), Stephan, Cappuccio, Casamento, Cautions: Stephan 24m, Liccardello 77m
Marconi Stallions: Ryan, Ugur, Duffell, Wilson, Cahill, Walker (Varas 71m), Ripepi, Narvaez (Stefanovski 64m), D'Arrigo, Polito, Krncevic, Cautions: Ugur 79m



SUPER SOCCER'S NSW DIV 1 BIG MATCH REPORT

Cosentino architect as 9-man Belmore hang on

By Greg Stock

BELMORE HERCULES 4
WHITE CITY 3

BLICK OVAL has played host to many great football matches throughout its history.

As the former home of Canterbury-Marrickville for many years, the venue in the back streets of Ashbury has proven to be a known haunt for providing many of football's great matches.

Now home to progressive outfit Belmore Hercules, the old 'Blick' was back to its best playing host to one of the most intriguing First Division matches seen this season.

With White City as the visitors, the game itself was billed as being a chance for the Hercules to confirm their growing reputations as one of the first division's leading lights, and after an hour of football they were just about right.

Leading 4-1 and coasting, the Hercules looked to be in no danger to anyone but themselves.

But what followed in the last thirty minutes is something more akin to a Benny Hill comedy skit than a game of football, as Belmore seemingly tried to hand the game to White City on a plate.

For all their endeavours, two send offs in the 62nd and 63rd minutes, left Belmore with just nine players for the last twenty seven minutes and a 3 goal cushion to protect.

From there it was just a matter of time as White City continued to press home their numerical advantage.

Goals quickly followed.

First in the 73rd minute when defender Vlad Radic met a corner uncontested at the back post and then in the 87th minute when striker Danny Poljak headed a shot home from a goalmouth scramble.

But when referee Nick Conditsis blew fulltime with White City again pressing for an equaliser, it was a relieved Belmore who headed to the sheds with the three points in the bag.

The manner of the win didn't impress coach Chris Karatzis who had hoped his side would bounce back from their draw with Hurstville.

"We tried hard to lose it," he joked, "but seriously we needed this win and credit to the boys they did enough to win."

After Rod Varga had taken the lead for White City, midfielder Con Paradisis struck two goals in two minutes to give Hercules the advantage.

His first was from the penalty spot, but his second just two minutes short of the break was by virtue of a terrific through ball from Frank Cosentino.

Despite being replaced with a hamstring problem midway through the second half Cosentino was the architect of the Hercules win, combining well with Giraldo and Corbo to cause White City some real problems.

In the second half it was the turn of former Mt Pritchard striker Greg Baldock to take advantage of some slack White City marking.

His two goals early in the second half fitting reward for a player who threw himself around as Belmore seemingly had the game by the scruff of the neck.

But the turning point of the game was undoubtedly the missed penalty by Costello De Andre in the 63rd minute, after Marc Santarossa was given his marching orders for deliberately handling the ball in the penalty area.

White City coach Tom Mihaljevic could only watch on in disbelief as De Andre had his penalty shot blocked by Belmore goalkeeper Matt Darwen but then had his follow up effort cannon into the post and rebound harmlessly away.

Mihaljevic summed it up the best after the game.

"We just weren't supposed to win this," he quipped.

Belmore Hercules 4 (Paradisis 41'pen 43' Baldock 53' 59')
White City 3 (Varga 32' Radic 73' Poljak 87')
Venue: Blick Oval
Cautions : Poljak (wc) 29' Borkovic (wc) 39' Giraldo (bh) 49' Kyriazopoulos (bh) 85'
Sent Off : Giraldo (bh) 62' Santarossa (bh) 63'

Belmore Hercules : Matt Darwen, Con Paradisis, Nick Kambounias, Eddie Giraldo, Jimmy Corbo (Stefan Janic 51'), Matthew Percy, John Kyriazopoulos, Jeff Suzor (Stellios Sampsonis), Frank Cosentino (Adam Loukadounis 55'), Marc Santarossa, Greg Baldock;
Coach : Chris Karatzis
White City : Daniel Borkovic, Sasha Poljak, Vlad Radic, Milan Armabasic (Adam Obradovis 46'), Richard Minvielle, Attila Stibinger (Dragan Mihaljovic 81'), Peter Krljar (Branko Kodor 58'), Richard Varga, Danny Blanco, Costello De Andre, Danny Poljak;
Coach : Tom Mihaljovic.

POSTED RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR—EVERY WEEK

Australia's best read football weekly

SUPER SOCCER SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHEQUE
VISA
AMEX
MASTERCARD
BANKCARD

SEND TO
PO BOX 98
CORRIMAL NSW 2518

10 issues (including postage and GST) $30
20 issues (including postage and GST) $58
30 issues (including postage and GST) $84
40 issues (including postage and GST) $110
50 issues (including postage and GST) $130

PLEASE SEND ME ..... ISSUES OF SUPER SOCCER.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... POSTCODE .....

I understand that all subscriptions will be sent by Australia Post on a Tuesday from Duntroon Publishing's Corrimal office.

PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO DUNTROON PUBLISHING

OUR SPECIAL GUARANTEE:
Cancel your subscription at any time and receive a pro-rata money back refund—no reasons required.

FOOTBALL IS MY BUSINESS

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE FOR AS LITTLE AS

$150 A MONTH

IN OUR NEW BUSINESS DISPLAY DIRECTORY

Enquiries
02 4285 7480 BH
0413 435 191 AH

FRASER PARK JETS
V
BANKSTOWN CITY

Sunday 20th May

SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER ACTION

FRASER PARK

First Grade: 3 pm
Reserves Grade 1 pm Youth Grade: 11 am

SUPER SOCCER'S NSW DIV 2 BIG MATCH REPORT

Tyler punishes as Parramatta stay in front

By Andrew Aiton

BALMAIN 1
PARRAMATTA CITY 2

THIS was a game of two halves with league leaders Parramatta City, countering a first half bustling offensive by Balmain, with two second half goals to snuff out Balmain's challenge to its leadership position.

After a pre-match team photo, Balmain burst out of the traps from kick-off and kept City pinned in its own half for most of the first session.

Coach Jimmy Campbell was urging his Balmain team on from the sidelines and Jason Catania and Jamie Andrews were doing likewise on the field.

The game was being played at picturesque Birchgrove Oval at the end of the Balmain peninsula looking across Snails Bay to the office towers of North Sydney.

This would be a great location to watch football on a sunny afternoon except that the pitch is unduly narrow to avoid the cricket square, leading to many fouls resulting from most of the play being in heavy traffic.

However, the pitch suited Balmain's style of play and its pressure paid off in the 19th when a Catania cross from the right was not cleared by the City defence and Scotty Barlow opened up Balmain's account from close in.

Balmain continued to apply pressure helped by Catania's long throw-ins.

A rasping shot from distance by Balmain's Andrew Norman in the 25th was tipped over the bar by Shane West.

The Balmain defence with Andrews in command was comfortably containing the occasional City sortie out of its own half.

The first half ended with more Balmain offensives from Catania, Vince Leonard and Max Civili but the home side could not convert pressure into goals.

There was a dramatic change in the second half with City stepping up its intensity and an apparently tiring Balmain falling back.

City Coach Andy Papoulis was encouraging his players while Balmain's Jimmy Campbell was strangely subdued.

And it paid off for City in its third attack after the break when an unmarked Lee Casha headed home easily in the 48th from a free kick out on the right by Chris Barry.

Another free kick from Barry to the far post almost resulted in a second goal for Casha running in but just failing to connect with his head.

City's second goal came in the 61st when super sub Joe Tyler punished a mis-kick by defender Dean Stacey with a well-taken goal from close range.

City failed to increase its lead in the 74th when the ball skidded off the post and again in the 82nd when Tyler shot against the post with the goal at his mercy.

Five minutes later, after a solo run from midfield, Alex Alexander's shot was pushed around for a corner by Balmain's Gustavo Segura.

Moving into injury time Balmain upped its efforts to pull the match out of the fire but apart from a shot by Barlow in the 93rd pushed around for a corner by keeper West, the massed Parramatta defence never looked like being breached and attacks on the break were always a threat to the exposed Balmain defence.

After the game Balmain Coach Jimmy Campbell said: "we dominated the first half but then we lost our concentration.

"We had lots of effort but not much guile."

Explaining the second half improvement City's Andy Papoulias said: "This has been our pattern in the last few games where we start off slowly and gradually build up our intensity as the game progresses."

Balmain 1 (S. Barlow 19m) Parramatta City 2 (L. Casha 48m, J. Tyler 61m)
Ground: Birchgrove Oval
Referee: Jorge Kichman
Balmain: G. Segura, J. McCarthy, A. Norman, B. Callcott, J. Andrews (D. Swift 81), D. Stacey, V. Leonard, S Barlow, M. Civili (D. Hardwick 67m), K. Thulin, J. Catania (M. Jaffray 69m).
Cautions: B. Callcott 73m, J. Andrews 80m.
Parramatta City: S. West, P. Kotronis, A Papoulias (J. Tyler 55m), C. Schofield, N. Valsamis, S. Ali, T. Combe, C. Dellas, A. Alexander, C. Barry, L. Casha (N Groarke 89m). Cautions: C. Schofield 20m, S. Ali 31m, C. Dellas 58m.

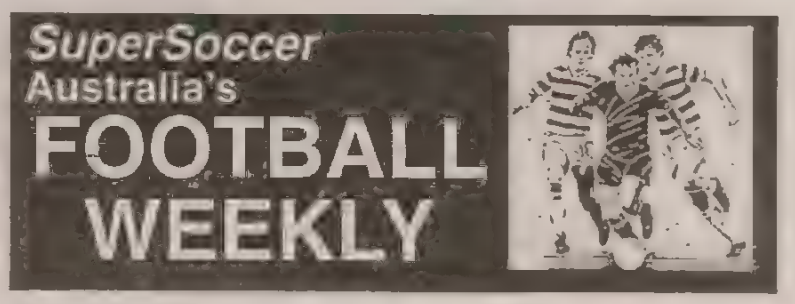
NSWSF FIRST DIVISION ALL THE SCORERS

7 Daniel Mittiga (Hills United), Rob Smithies (Sydney University)
6 Greg Baldock (Belmore Hercules), Danny Poljak (White City)
5 Osvaldo El Ali (Illawarra Lions), Ray Mandic (White City), Mark Rooke (Bathurst '75)
4 Denis Aliliovic (Hurstville), Jarrod Nash (Ryde City), Michael Severino (Mount Pritchard), Tim Stratford (Ryde City), Patrick Suriano (Mount Pritchard), Mark Williamson (Sydney University)
3 Tony Alilovic (Hurstville), Jimmy Corbo (Belmore Hercules), Costello de Andre Hog (White City), Julian Miller (Hills United), Con Paradisis (Belmore Hercules), Rob Pirecca (Belmore Hercules), Stephen Pirie (Mount Pritchard), Fred Umlil (Sydney University)
2 Michael Grass (Greystanes), Todd Harper (Greystanes), Darren McCann (Illawarra Lions), Nick Mandic (Hurstville), David Marsiglia (Sydney University), Tony Mihaljevic (Hurstville), Micky Mohamad (Mount Druitt), Taner Omac (Auburn), Anthony Oppesidano (Hills United), Sasha Tanevski (Illawarra Lions), Richard Varga (White City), Oliver Vrckovski (Illawarra Lions)
1 Gwang-Ti An (Auburn United), Milan Arambasic (White City), Robert Babaic (Hurstville), David Baillie (Bathurst '75), Daniel Birrane (Greystanes), Daniel Blanco (White City), Sandro Borsato (Illawarra Lions), Damien Brown (Mount Pritchard), Matthew Brown (Ryde City), Ante Buntic (Hurstville), Kwingsak Chang (Auburn United), Steve Crawhall (Greystanes), Darren Crittenden (Greystanes), S Dixon (Ryde City), Dean Golding (Mount Pritchard), Ollie Gomm (Sydney University), B Griffiths (Bathurst '75), Nathan Hall (Ryde City), M Hayes (Auburn United), M Heaton (Hills United), Nick Jamsek (Ryde City), Andy Kidd (Greystanes), Peter Krljar (White City), Glen Lowe (Mount Pritchard), Andrew Loxley (Bathurst '75), Luke McDougall (Sydney University), Ambrose Marncia (Moutn Druitt Town), Danny Mihajlovic (White City), Joe Moric (Mount Pritchard), C Morton (Mt Pritchard), Scott Mutton (Bathurst '75), Damien Nash (Hills United), Rudi Nasser (Belmore Hercules), Adam Obradovic (White City), Alan Pavelic (Hurstville), Brad Racker (Greystanes), Matthew Percy (Belmore Hercules), Rob Portelli (Ryde City), Vlad Radic (White City), Leo Rubio (Auburn United), Marc Santarossa (Belmore Hercules), Jako Simic (Mount Pritchard), Andy Stratford (Ryde City), Bill Tsioumas (Mount Druitt Town), Peter Vrlic (Mount Pritchard), Jama Yusuf (Auburn), Vjekoslav Zoric (Hurstville)

NSWSF SECOND DIVISION ALL THE SCORERS

7 Justin Palumbo (Western Rage)
5 Alex Alexander (Parramatta City), Edward Adam (Western Sydney Lions), Omar Makki (The Wanderers), Andrew Quinnell (Nepean)
4 Gus Orcajo (The Wanderers), Gareth Martin (Hakoah), Ali Fayad (The Wanderers), John Peros (Central Coast Lakers)
3 Yousif Assak (Wesetrn Sydney Lions), Richard Astone (Nepean), Scott Barlow (Balmain), R Cannon (Camden Tigers), Lee Casha (Parramatta), Will Croker (Camden), Nick Kodamichalos (UNSW), Daniel Lownds (Nepean), Chris Smith (Central Coast Lakers), Terry Sperber (Hakoah), KJ Thulin (Balmain), Warwick Turpin (Balmain), David Winterton (UNSW)
2 Tom Bazdaric (Camden Tigers), Bruno Beddoni (Concord), Scott Beever (Camden Tigers),Brett Buckpitt (Nepean), Enzo Granata (Western Rage), Mark Jaffray (Balmain), Glenn McPherson (Nepean), Charly Morales (Western Rage), Ricky Neumann (Hakoah), Matthew Shepherd (UNSW), Wayne Spiteri (Western Sydney Lions), Tony Velevski (Petersham), Ante Zizic (Petersham)
1 Y Alali (Hakoah), Sameer Ali (Parramatta), J Anabalon (Western Rage), Jerry Barros (Petersham), Chris Barry (Parramatta), Costa Boutsikakis (Concord FC), Fadi Chedid (Petersham), Max Civili (Balmian), Charlie Claridge (UNSW), Keenan Crum (Central Coast), Kaan Davies (Nepean), Con Dellas (Parramatta City), Alex Fernandez (Concord FC), David Field (Central Coast), Danny George (Western Sydney Lions), Neil Groake (Parramatta), N Hanna (Western Sydney Lions), David Hardwick (Balmain), Ersin Husnu (Nepean), Oscar Iturra (UNSW), Keith Jeffs (UNSW), Nathan King (Nepean), Raffeli Lombard (Western Rage), N Lovrencic (Western Rage), M McGarvey (Central Coast Lakers), Dean MacKechnie (Camden Tigers), Justin McLeay (Petersham), M O'Hara (UNSW), David Oswell (Petersham), R Pireh (Western Sydney Lions), Antony Pisano (Concord), A Prophet (Camden Tigers), Ryan Richards (Western Rage), Eyton Rubenstein (Hakoah), Lior Segre (Hakoah), Pierangelo Sitta (Western Rage), Glen Smith (Camden Tigers), D Stacey (Balmain), Paul Talone (Concord), Narongsak Teerapapwises (Concord FC), Mark Tolland (Nepean),J Tyler (Parramatta), Danny Wells (The Wanderers), Jeremy Wynne (Central Coast)

Coming soon ... SuperSoccer's
NSL GRAND FINAL
SPECIAL ISSUE



The best place to reach the soccer market

NOW ON SALE IN VICTORIA

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Hurstville push the Lions all the way to share

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1
HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 1

By Greg Stock

HURSTVILLE City Minotaurs confirmed their status as one of the rising stars of this years Super League, earning a gutsy 1-1 draw with Bankstown City.

With their loyal army of fans there to cheer them on, the Minotaurs looked anything but underdogs.

They almost snatched the game from under the noses of their more fancied opponents.

With the game locked at one all, striker Evangelos Petratos had the chance to make a hero of himself with just five minutes remaining on the clock.

A Nick Boliantis cross from the left found Petratos rising high at the back post, but his miscued effort sailed harmlessly over the bar.

With Bankstown unveiling new signing Robbie Gomez in the starting eleven, the first half definitely belonged to the Lions.

Accompanied by fellow strike partner Jimmy Aschner, the Lions ran rampant, producing chance after chance but failing to muster a decisive effort.

The Minotaurs defence hung on stoutly but just a minute short of the break their tenuous grip on a clean sheet was weakened.

Defender Sam Panagakis bought Lions midfielder George Issa down with a clumsy challenge inside the penalty box.

Up stepped former Blacktown City striker Jimmy Aschner who quickly put the Lions in front 1-0 at the break.

In the second half the Minotaurs produced a much better effort, moving the ball forward with more purpose.

Defender Michael Kladis started to push forward and all of a sudden the Minotaurs were producing some good chances.

In the 58th minute striker Evangelos Petratos pulled his side level.

Rising high at the back post Petratos was the first to meet a Manny Mitikadis cross.

Sending his header past the outstretched arms of a despairing Bankstown goalkeeper Zlatko Josevski.

Despite the best efforts of the Minotaurs, that was the end to the scoring but not the end of the entertainment for the fans as both sides tried to break the deadlock.

The best chance for a winner again fell to Petratos late in the match, though both sides can feel happy with the point in a hard fought contest.

Minotaurs coach Peter Sarikakis was pleased with his sides effort.

"We would have prefered a win of course, but there aren't too many teams who can come to Jensen Park and come home with anything," said the veteran coach.

"So from that perspective I am happy.

"Bankstown are one of the best sides in the competition and we showed we can match it with them."

His opposite Claudio Canosa wasn't quite as happy, but did acknowledge the strength of the Minotaurs effort.

"All credit to Hurstville, they played very well. Every game is a tough game in this competition," says Canosa.

"There are no easy games and we showed we must play at a one hundred percent to get the result.

"I was happy with the side, but we struggled a little to find the net so I will be looking to improve that ahead of a tough game against Fraser Park."

Bankstown City Lions 1 (Aschner 44'pen)
Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (Petratos 58')
Ground: Jensen Park, Sefton.
Referee : Peter Vrtkovski
Bankstown City Lions : 1.Zlatko Josevski, 2.Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4.Bryan Raeburn, 5.Anthony Kanaan, 6.Robert Issa (15.Gus Cerro 72'), 7.George Issa, 8.Chris Bradley, 9. Robert Gomez (16.Goce Trposki 78'), 10.Jimmy Aschner, 11. Iain McDonald (14.Alex Trpkoski 82'); Coach : Claudio Canosa.
Hurstville City Minotaurs : 1.Stacy Aleogdelis, 4.Nick Nicholas, 5.Sam Panagakis, 6.Manuel Sarikakis (14.Terry Palapanis 78'), 7.Spiro Kladis, 8.Spyro Kladis (11.Angelo Kalamvokis 78'), 9. Evangelos Petratos, 10.Michael Kladis, 13.Nick Knithakis, 15. Manny Mitikidis, 17.Nick Boliantis; Coach : Peter Sarikakis.
Cautions : Nil

Beldham scores as Dolphins continue their good form

MACARTHUR RAMS 0
MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 1

By Robert Szoszkiewicz

WITH Manly-Warringah and Macarthur placed fifth and sixth respectively on the table, this clash had all the ingredients for a tough and tightly contested encounter.

The 1-0 result in favour of the Dolphins justified the pre-match judgement.

Manly looked the goods on paper boasting a host of quality players including former National Soccer League stars Phil Moss, Danny Townsend and Steve Berry.

The Rams on the other hand were coming off a solid last start win against MSC Liverpool and had the home ground advantage in this fixture.

The opening 20 minutes saw neither team dominate, although the first real opportunity did come the way of Macarthur.

A free kick by Wesley Horne found Christian Cevenni, whose ensuing shot in heavy traffic sprayed to the left of the post.

Manly concentrated many of its attacks down the right flank, but often found their forwards caught off side.

MacArthur again went close to scoring, this time Kory Babington pushing his shot just wide of an outstretched Dean McCreath after a well directed pass by captain Martin Bourke.

The visitors also threatened to score moments later when Adam Snyder's corner found an unmarked Mark Beldam who only managed to tap the ball into the waiting arms of goal keeper Chad Taylor.

The final minutes of the first half saw frustration creeping into the game with both sides guilty of a number of desperate long-range attempts at goal and careless tackling.

At half time both sides settled for a 0-0 score.

The second half followed the trend of the first with the ball being played to all corners of the park, but it was often a case of last pass not sticking or failing to find its mark that saw set moves break down.

In the 84th minute, Mark Beldham finally converted an opportunity to open the scoring.

After some good counter attack by the Dolphins, the ball found its way at the feet of Berry on the left wing.

Berry's cross into the middle was flicked on by substitute Matt Godwin to Beldham, who calmly slotted the ball under the keeper to give Manly a 1-0 lead.

On the stroke of full time, the home side were unlucky not to steal an equaliser when a shot by Benjamin Kirkman was punched away by McCreath into the path of Shane Risby whose shot flew centimetres wide of the goal.

In the end, the one-nil result was enough to enable the Dolphins to head back to the North Shore with three valuable points.

Rams coach Hugh McCrory said he was generally pleased with his teams efforts.

"It was a hard physical game and a draw would have been a good result," McCrory said.

"Tactically it was not a great but it was a good game for the spectators."

MacArthur Rams 0 Manly-Warringah Dolphins 1 (Beldham 84)
Ground: Lynwood Park
Referee: Greg Leverton
MacArthur Rams: Taylor, Horne, Kirkman, Maude, Judge, Bourke, Harrison, Babington, King (Risby 84), Younan, Cevenni (Attard 80) Substitutes: Wheatley, Risby, Newall, Attard
Cautions: Nil
Manly-Warringah Dolphins: McCreath, Wilson, Ju, Moss, Foster, Townsend, Beldham, Snyder, Antar (Godwin 71), Israel. Berry Substitutes: West, Foti, Corte, Godwin, Hurwitz
Cautions: Townsend 21

Green shines, as Fraser Park hammer Liverpool

MSC LIVERPOOL 3
FRASER PARK JETS 8

By Ben Moring

FRASER Park's season looks to have finally taken off, as they flew in and out of Hammondville Oval with an astonishing eight-goal blast, which totally bewildered an injury depleted MSC Liverpool side. There would be 11 goals come the final whistle, with eight coming in a frenetic first half.

Fraser Park's fine attacking play brought reward in the 9th minute. Paul Lombardo opened proceedings with a deflected twenty-five yard effort, that looped over Travis Glen.

The lead was extended in the 13th minute, when Damien Rosenthal's chip from the edge of the area hit the back of the net.

Lombardo scored his second, in the 19th minute, as he slid his shot under the advancing Glen. Credit must be given to Liverpool, as they then clawed their way back to be level before the interval.

The first came from Green in the 21st, when he dispatched low into the bottom left corner from twenty-yards.

Zlatko Momircevski chimed in four minutes later. Green somehow managed to roll the ball all the way along the by-line, which Momircevski reached first to prod home from virtually on the goal line.

Green made the scores level in the 33rd minute when Tom Tregear whipped in a cross from the left and the ball was expertly put away with a side-foot volley.

De Jesus would then hit his own double. The first came in the 36th, when Glen was again chipped, this time from sixteen-yards.

The second came on the stroke of half time, when De Jesus was first to the ball close to the right post.

He managed to flick the ball into the corner of the net. The Jets would score three more after the break, to complete a memorable night.

Abbas Saad notched the first of these on 60 minutes, when he went to slide tackle a home defender and the ball ricocheted off his boot and in.

Nine from time and it was Robinson who got in on the act. A fine looping header beat keeper Glen, after MSC Liverpool failed to clear their line.

The rout was complete in the 87th minute, Danial Cummins' overhead kick trickled in from close range.

There was a somber mood around the ground after the match, however, Club President Arthur Sullivan saw some positives in the display:

"Fraser Park have some great players and tonight they clicked. The highlight of the night for us, was to get from 3-0 down, to 3-3.

"We always knew our first year in the Super League would be tough.

"But I'm happy with the way the club is progressing. We have a definite pathway for our juniors to progress."

There were four amateurs playing in the MSC Liverpool side, compared with Fraser Park's star-studded line up.

MSC Liverpool 3 (Clinton Green 21m, 33m, Zlatko Momircevski 25m)
Fraser Park Jets 8 (Paul Lombardo 5m, 19m, Damien Rosenthal 13m, Ivo De Jesus 36m, 45m, Abbas Saad 60m, Sean Robertson 81m, Danial Cummins 87m)
Ground: Hammondville OvalReferee: Boyd McGregor
MSC Liverpool: Travis Glen, Thomas Tregear, Darren Opsal, Salvatore Zullo (Joseph Corrente 67m), Zlatko Momircevski (Oliver Momircevski 89m), Jamie Amendolia, Clinton Green, Robert Cicek, Ismael Arrarte, Scott Watkins, Brett Hewit Cautions: none
Fraser Park Jets: Con Anastasiadis, Duncan Alger, Paul Lombardo, Ronald Rothenbuhler, Peter Pullicino, Damien Rosenthal (Haken Sevgin 76m), Danial Cummins, Ivo De Jesus (Rui Silva 76m), Abbas Saad (Adam Anderson 67m), Sean Robertson, Vadim Mikoutski

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Karavatakis keeps scoring spree as the Hill win again

By Ben Moring

DULWICH HILL 3
HADJUK WANDERERS 1

DULWICH Hill registered their fifth triumph this season, with a 3-1 home win over an enthusiastic Hajduk Wanderers side while Dulwich Hill produced some flowing football in front of their smallest home crowd this season.

The signs looked ominous for the Wanderers in as early as the 3rd minute as Ben Deighan linked up with Peter Apolevski down the right, who made a dart for the corner stick.

The midfielder then squared into the path of Donev, who shot straight at goalkeeper Luke Martin.

Six minutes later and Hill went a goal-to-the-good. Deighan was fouled forty-yards form goal and the returning Eric Hristodoulou curled in a lovely free and a fine nod-on fell to Karavatakis.

Ben Deighan was having a fine game and nearly added to the lead in the 12th minute. His first-time volley went wide, after a Karavatakis cross from the left. Karavatakis scored his eighth goal this campaign in the 20th minute. Donev nodded a George Kalogeras clearance on. Karavatakis, flicked past his marker and ran clear on goal. He kept his nerve from 20-yards to slot under the Martin.

It wasn't always one way traffic, however.

Richard Giometti had the visitors best chance of the half, in the 39th minute but low shot was well held by Trajcevski.

The first half ended on a controversial note, as referee Alex Spiroski dismissed a Hajduk call for handball in the box. The match would turn into a scrap, as several promising moves would be snuffed out by the respective backlines. Dulwich Hill waited until the 87th minute to make sure of the win, when Donev angled a header into the net.

It seemed Hajduk would leave empty handed but substitute Warren Hayward would race clear and curled a shot past the keeper to bring some respectability to the score.

Hill coach Bill Pilovski was happy with his side's effort "It's nice to get another win after two draws, where we were unlucky," he said.

"3-0 would've been nice and we could have had five or six, they get one chance and score late on, but that's football."

Dulwich Hill 3 (Steve Karavatakis 9m, 20m, Zlatko Donev 87m)
Hajduk Wanderers 1 (Warren Hayward 90+m)
Ground: Arlington OvalReferee: Alex Spiroski
Dulwich Hill: Peco Trajcevski, Edmund Wong, Mathew Dihm, Alexander Kotevich, George Kalogeras, Peter Apolevski (Achilles Markopoulos 79m), Ben Deighan (Hussein Jomaa 72m), Steve Karavatakis, Eric Hristodoulou, Malcolm Bideau, Zlatko Donev (Ali Salim 87m)
Cautions: Ben Deighan 27m
Hajduk Wanderers: Luke Martin, Darren Camilleri, Mark Abi-Arrage (Warren Hayward 76m), Richard Giometti, Jason Vella, Trent Worrall, Stephen Scotti, Rodney Hutchinson, G. Talevski (Joseph Ellul 45m), Adriano Macerola (Brendan Salameh 72m), Josip Badrov
Cautions: Josip Badrov 26m, Richard Giometti 77m

Ghisso and Hoenselaars grab a hat-trick as the Bulls punish Stanmore

FAIRFIELD BULLS 9
STANMORE HAWKS 1

By Daniel Kuziow

THE sound of studs dragging on concrete was all that could be heard on the path to the Stanmore Hawks dressing room, as the Fairfield Bulls gave a ruthless lesson in attacking football, demolishing their opposition nine goals to one.

With many claiming it was the first time they had seen anything of the like, in the events which unfolded at Nineveh Field.

Four-goal hero Johnny Ghisso remarked that the performance of the Bulls was outstanding.

It was indeed Ghisso who started the rout after 14 minutes when he dribbled across the penalty area before rifling in a shot which once unleashed was stopped only by the violent shaking of the net.

It was 2-0 some 14 minutes later when Mark Hoenselaars was fouled in the penalty area and duly shook himself off to convert the penalty awarded by referee Craig Pearce.

On 31 minutes a superb sideline cross from Stuart Van Bentum picked out the lively Ghisso who side volleyed home into the corner of the goal for a dynamic 3-0 lead.

And two goals just before half time all but ended this contest.

The first falling to Hoenselaars who buried the ball from only three yards after a teasing cross from Paul Dee cut out the entire Stanmore back line.

Only a minute later, Ghisso had sealed his hat trick.

Shooting in at the near post to leave the Hawks keeper Peter Spathis helpless.

Fairfield continued on their merry way and notched up their sixth goal 10 minutes into the second half when Paul Dee cut across his marker to square the ball to the waiting Ghisso who side-footed into the Stanmore goal.

The visitors however had cause to celebrate (if only for a moment) when they scored a fine goal of their own on 64 minutes, their number 14 Adrian Lara firing in from the edge of the 18 yard box after the Bulls had failed to clear their defensive line properly.

The home team added to their tally 15 minutes later, when Bulls substitute Matthew Borg beat the offside trap to chase down a Paul Richardson long ball.

Approaching the keeper, Borg slipped the ball through the legs of Spathis to run it casually into an unguarded net.

Borg had his second four minutes later after Hoenselaars played a looping cross to the back post.

The number 10 rose above his marker to fire a super header past the Hawks custodian.

A minute before full time the Fairfield whitewash was complete when Hoenselaars also completed his hat trick, tapping in a good square ball from Borg and forcing the scoreboard attendant to change the numbers for one final time.

When asked about his team's goal scoring spree Stewart Van Bentum said that although the game wasn't perfect.

"We took our chances…in that once we got one (goal) we went on with the job."

The attacking brilliance of the Fairfield Bulls was on show for all who ventured out to Nineveh Field.

While the Stanmore Hawks were better than the score line suggested, they were outplayed, outclassed and outshone by a far superior team.

Fairfield Bulls 9 (Ghisso 14, 31, 42 and 55m, Hoenselaars 27, 41 and 90m, Borg 79 and 83m)
Stanmore Hawks 1 (Lara 64m)
Ground: Nineveh Field
Referee: Craig Pearce.
Fairfield: Mikuletic, Crnokrak, Bourke, Richardson, Mammoliti, Hoenselaars, Sharpley, Mancino, Van Bentum (Green 78m), Ghisso (Borg 62m), Dee (Darvill 58m). Cautions: Mammoliti 79m
Stanmore: Spathis, Theodoropoulos, Borg, Kartambis (Trieste 52m), Lara, Lardotti, Philippou (Skoulos 62m), Antonopoulos (Papadopoulos h/t), Maximiliano, Liavas, Briscoe. Cautions: Lardotti 62m

Sansone and AC United stun Rockdale to revive season

By Mendo Cklamovski

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 0
AC UNITED 2

A determined AC United upset the competition leaders Rockdale City at the Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre in the upset of the round with last beating first.

Both teams had new players on show with Rockdale City playing new signing midfielder Nahuel Arrarte from Sydney United while AC United had Allan Picken also from Sydney United starting, and Tayfun Devrimol and Devrim Huseyin from Bonnyrigg White Eagles who started on the bench.

Rockdale City coach Mile Todoroski made a few positional changes with striker Leo Carle absent on tour with Parramatta Power.

AC United could not have hoped for a better start when after five minutes the speedy right wingback Enzo Sansone scored with a brilliant chip over the advancing Rockdale City keeper Amir Ajanovic.

It was a mean feat indeed for the skillful Sansone, who joined AC United from Rockdale City two seasons ago, he beat the defence and then the seven foot keeper with a chip from outside the penalty area.

Ajanovic wasn't able to get back in time as the ball sneaked into the top left hand corner.

Rockdale tried to take control of the match and came close twice but were denied in by good defence as both Nabil Codmani and Spase Najdoski had shots saved in a goal-mouth scramble and then Spase Najdoski miskicked his shot from in front of goal.

Enzo Sansone was doing his best to repel the Rockdale raids and almost scored a second as he put pressure on Rockdale defenders Dean Culina and Ghenadie Costiuc.

Arrate went close when his shot was saved by AC keeper Claudio Fernandez, then Spase Najdoski held on to a pass from Dean Culina before squaring for Bill Petrovski to shoot over the bar.

It appeared that lady luck had deserted Rockdale when in the 39th minute Ben Price got behind the Rockdale defence to shoot from the right and score off the left hand post.

The first half finished with a 2-0 score-line with the game looking safe for AC.

The second half saw AC United playing a patient game as the Suns attacked them but were not able to break through their defence for that elusive goal.

The best chances came in the 56th minute when Spase Najdoski cut the ball back for Nabil Codmani to unbelievably shoot over with only the keeper to beat.
AC United then lost their captain Domenic Oliverio with 20 minutes to go but they weren't going to let go of what ended up being a deserved win.

Todoroski brought on striker Anthony Adamo and Mirko Jovanov in vain as he tried to get his team on track.

In the end AC coach Paul Carter was delighted with and was hopeful that this will turn his team around.

For AC United the stars were right wingback Enzo Sansone, keeper Claudio Fernandez and their solid defence.

Suns striker Spase Najdoski, would've been disappointed at the lack finishing that kept his team scoreless for only the second time this season.

Rockdale City 0 AC United 2 (Enzo Sansone 5', Ben Price 39')
Ground: Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre Referee: Jonathan Streater Attendance: approx. 450
Rockdale City Suns: Amir Ajanovic, Saso Boskovski, Nabil Codmani, Andrew McHardy, Marko Vuckovic, Bill Petrovski (Anthony Adamo 70'), Spase Najdoski, Steve Cklamovski (Mirko Jovanov 77'), Dean Culina, Ghenadie Costiuc, Nahuel Arrate. Substitutes not used: Mark Afif, Kire Josevski, Peter Cklamovski. Cautions: Saso Boskovski, Marko Vuckovic.
AC United: Claudio Fernandez, Robert Grubba, Domeic Oliverio (Tayfun Devrimol 70'), Robert Sacco, Shane Cevenini, Alex Araujo, Allan Picken, Ben Price, Nathan Rivera, Enzo Sansone, Maytham Abdal (Devrim Huseyin 57'). Substitutes not used: Peter Akers, Kris Holbrook, Michael McGovern. Cautions: Nil.

SCOREBOARD

WORLD CUP
ASIAN ZONE
Group 7
May 7
Jordan 1 Uzbekistan 1
Scorers: Jordan - Esam E. Abu Touk 54pen Uzbekistan - Vladimir Maminov 77pen Halftime: 0-0;
Attendence: 500
Teams Jordan: 1-Ahmad al-Khazaleh; 16-Jamal Abu Abed; 17-Hatem Aqel; 10-Ghanem Yousef Hamarsheh; 14-Haitham al-Shboul; 15-Rateb Awadat; 11-Esam Abu Touk; 13-Ra'affat Ali Jaber (20-Badran al-Shaqran 79); 3-Haytham Semrin; 12-Belal Laham (7-Faisal Ibrahim 42); 21-Ashraf Shatat.
Uzbekistan: 13-Oleg Pashinin; 15-Davranjon Fayzeiv;
8-Vladimir Maminov (24-Marat Akhmerov 90); 9-Georgi Georgiev; 2-Bakhtiyor Asurmatov; 16-Evgene Safonov (goalkeeper);
14-Bahadir Annamatov; 17-Alexander Khvostunov; 6-Bakhodir Seytkamalov; 27-Mukhtar Kurbanov (4-Mirdjalal Kasimov 46); 23-Ilyas Zeytulayev.

Turkmenistan 1 Taiwan 0
Scorer: Kulosgazov Azat 37
Halftime: 1-0; Attendence: 200
Teams: Turkmenistan: 1Naboychenko Yevgeniy, 2-Gochkuliev Gochkuli, 4-Ignatov Aleksandr, 5-Meredov Jumadurdy, 6-Durduev Kurbangeldi (3-Miller Vladimir 57), 10-Gogoladze Kakha, 21-Bayramov Vladmir (8-Bayramov Nazar 80), 15-Berdiyev Omar (11-Agabayev Rejepmurat 46), 19-Magdiyev Yuriy; 20-Kuliyev Begenchmukhammet; 22-Bordolimov Yuriy
Taiwan: 1-Yang Cheng-Hsing, 6-Cheng Yung Jen, 2-Chen Chun Chieh, 24-Chen Chun Nan, 17-Tu Chu-Hsien (9-Hsu Jui-Chen 34), 11-Huang Che Ming, 14-Shen Chai Fu (27-Chang Wu Yeh 68), 15-Chuang Yao Tsung, 3-Tu Ming Feng, 18-Wang Jieh-Wen, 19-Pan Kuao Kai

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	6	4	2	0	20	5	14
Turkm'stan	6	4	0	2	12	7	12
Jordan	6	2	2	2	14	7	8
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	0	25	0

Group One
Oman 7 Philippines 0
Scorers - Hani Dhabit 43pen, 80, Fauzi Basheer 61, 68, Yaqoob Juma 45, 79, Samir Said 82
Halftime: 2-0

Group Eight
May 13
Brunei 0 India 1
Scorer: Je Paul Anchery 75
Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 10,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yemen	5	3	2	0	12	5	11
UAE	5	3	0	2	18	3	9
India	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Brunei D	5	0	0	5	0	23	0

Remaining matches:
May 18 - UAE v Yemen
May 20 - India v Brunei Darussalam

BELGIUM
May 12
Excelsior M'cm 1 Standard Liege 1
Ghent 2 La Louviere 2
Genk 2 Germinal Beerschot 0
Lierse 0 Club Bruges 2
Anderlecht 1 Mechelen 0
Antwerp 0 Eendracht Aalst 0
Charleroi 1 Sint-Truiden 7
Beveren 1 Westerlo 4
Lokeren 3 Harelbeke 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	33	24	8	1	83	24	80
Club Bruge	33	22	9	2	77	24	75
St'rd Liege	33	16	12	5	71	39	60
G'nal B'hot	33	17	3	13	61	50	54
Lokeren	33	15	9	9	53	41	54
Ghent	33	15	9	9	58	48	54
Westerlo	33	15	8	10	61	52	53
Exc'Mcrn	33	14	8	11	60	48	50
Charleroi	33	13	5	15	50	65	44
Lierse	33	12	6	15	43	50	42
Genk	33	11	9	13	45	45	42
Antwerp	33	11	6	16	37	44	39
Beveren	33	9	8	16	28	61	35
Sint-Tr'den	33	9	7	17	43	53	34
La L'viere	33	6	12	15	31	53	30
E'dcht A'st	33	7	8	18	32	60	29
Harelbeke	33	7	4	22	33	77	25
Mechelen	33	4	9	20	39	71	21

CROATIA
May 9
Croatian Cup final, first leg
Hajduk Split 0 Dinamo Zagreb 2
Scorers: Tomo Sokota 40, Mihael Mikic 57 Halftime: 1-0; Attendance: 25,000 Second leg, May 23

CYPRUS
May 12
Apollon Limassol 1 Nea Salamina Famagusta 0
Scorers : Viktor Jubarev 66
Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 15,000

ENGLAND
May 8
Liverpool 2 Chelsea 2
May 12
FA Cup Final
Liverpool 2 Arsenal 1
May 13
Southampton 2 Manchester Utd 1
Leeds United 6 Bradford 1

May 13
English league play-off, first leg matches
Division one
West Bromwich 2 Bolton Wanderers 2
Birmingham 1 Preston 0
Division two
Wigan 0 Reading 0
Stoke 0 Walsall 0
Division three
Blackpool 2 Hartlepool 0
Hull 1 Leyton Orient 0
Second leg matches to be played on May 16-17.

FRANCE
May 12
French first division
Olympique Lyon 5 Strasbourg 0
Nantes 1 St Etienne 0
AJ Auxerre 0 Stade Rennes 1
Girondins Bordeaux 2 Sedan 2
En Avant Guingamp 1 Troyes 1
Monaco 0 RC Lens 0
Olympique Marseille 2 Bastia 1
Paris St Germain 2 Lille 2
Toulouse 2 Metz 1

GREECE
May 7
Panathinaikos 0 AEK Athens 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	28	24	2	2	81	20	74
P'thinaikos	28	18	6	4	53	18	60
AEK Ath	28	17	4	7	55	32	55
PAOK S'ka	28	13	9	6	59	44	48
Iraklis	28	13	4	11	42	36	43
Ionikos	28	11	8	9	41	42	41
Aris S'nika	28	12	4	12	32	37	40
Xanthi	28	11	5	12	23	33	38
Panionios	28	9	9	10	37	36	36
Panachaiki	28	9	6	13	38	47	33
OFI Crete	28	7	8	13	36	48	29
PAS I'na	28	7	8	13	36	52	29
Eth'Asteras	28	7	7	14	29	51	28
Paniliakos	28	6	8	14	23	41	26
Kalamata	28	4	9	15	36	59	21
Athinaikos	28	5	5	18	36	61	20

Greek Cup final
May 12
PAOK Salonika 4 Olympiakos Piraeus 2
Scorers: PAOK Salonika - Yiotis Egomitis 4, Vassilis Borbokis 31, Giorgos Georgiadis 46, Dimtris Nalitzis 85 Olympiakos Piraeus - Predrad Djordjevic 79 pen, Lambros Houtos 90 Halftime: 2-0; Attendance 13,600

HOLLAND
Ajax Amsterdam 3 Feyenoord 4
Utrecht 3 Roda JC Kerkrade 0
NEC Nijmegen 0 NAC Breda 2
Sparta Rotterdam 0 AZ Alkmaar 3
Graafschap D'hem 0 RKC W'ijk 1
Heerenveen 0 Vitesse Arnhem 0
Willem II Tilburg 3 Groningen 0
RBC Roosendaal 1 PSV E'hoven 2
F'tuna Sittard 0 Twente Enschede 2

HUNGARY
May 12
Ferencvaros 2 Ujpest 2
Kispest-Honved 3 Dunaferr 4
Sopron 0 Zalaegerszeg 0
Debrecen 2 Tatabanya 1
May 11
Videoton 4 Gyor 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
F'cvaros	16	8	6	2	28	12	34
Dunaferr	16	9	1	6	25	27	33
MTK	15	7	4	4	21	11	31
K'pst-H'vd	16	9	3	4	29	21	31
Vasas	15	7	4	4	27	21	29
Ujpest	16	7	3	6	26	26	29
Gyor	16	6	5	5	19	20	25
Videoton	16	6	2	8	23	22	22
Z'gerszeg	16	5	6	5	20	20	22
Sopron	16	4	6	6	17	19	21
Debrecen	16	4	2	10	23	35	17
Tatabanya	16	1	2	13	11	35	11

Note: This is the second stage of Hungary's two-stage championship. The top six from each of the two eight-team groups in the first stage qualified for the second stage, carrying forward points awarded for their final group positions.

IRELAND
May 8
Kilkenny City 1 Longford Town 1

Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	33	18	8	7	66	34	62
Shelbourne	33	17	9	7	53	37	60
Cork City	33	15	11	7	36	29	56
Bray Wand	33	15	10	8	51	35	55
St Patrick's	33	14	11	8	54	41	53
Derry City	33	12	9	12	31	28	45
S'rock Rov	33	10	12	11	50	47	42
L'ford Twn	33	12	6	15	40	47	42
Galway Utd	33	10	10	13	34	47	40
Uni' Dublin	33	9	10	14	36	44	37
Finn Harps	33	8	12	13	36	46	36
K'nny City	32	1	6	26	14	66	9

ITALY
May 11
Fiorentina 1 Juventus 3
Inter Milan 0 AC Milan 6
May 12
Bari 2 Vicenza 2
Brescia 0 Bologna 0
Napoli 2 Lazio 4
Reggina 2 Parma 0
AS Roma 1 Atalanta 0
Udinese 3 Perugia 3
Verona 0 Lecce 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Roma	30	20	7	3	58	28	67
Lazio	30	19	5	6	57	32	62
Juventus	30	17	10	3	51	25	61
Parma	30	14	8	8	44	24	50
AC Milan	30	12	11	7	52	40	47
Inter Milan	30	12	8	10	41	41	44
Atalanta	30	10	12	8	35	29	42
Bologna	30	11	9	10	41	40	42
Perugia	30	10	10	10	45	47	40
Fiorentina	30	9	12	9	49	45	39
Brescia	30	8	12	10	37	37	36
Udinese	30	10	4	16	45	53	34
Vicenza	30	8	8	14	33	44	32
Lecce	30	7	11	12	35	49	32
Reggina	30	8	5	17	27	46	29
Napoli	30	6	10	14	29	48	28
Verona	30	7	7	16	31	51	28
Bari	30	5	5	20	28	58	20

JAPAN
May 13
C'dole S'poro 2 Kashima Antlers 1
JEF United I'hara 2 Verdy Tokyo 1
Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Jubilo Iwata 0
Grampus Eight 3 Gamba Osaka 2
Urawa Reds 2 Vissel Kobe 1
Sanfrecce H'hima 3 Cerezo Osaka 2
Av'pa F'ka 1 Yokohama F M'nos 0
FC Tokyo 2 Kashiwa Reysol 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iwata	9	8	0	1	21	6	24
Shimizu	9	7	0	2	17	10	18
Nagoya	9	6	1	2	14	11	16
Sapporo	9	5	1	3	12	11	16
Ichihara	9	5	0	4	17	15	14
Kashiwa	9	5	0	4	17	13	13
Urawa	9	4	1	4	13	14	12
Kobe	9	4	1	4	9	10	12
Hiroshima	9	4	0	5	16	16	11
Fukuoka	9	4	0	5	10	13	11
FC Tokyo	9	4	0	5	9	13	11
G'ba O'ka	9	4	0	5	11	14	10
Cr'zo O'ka	9	2	2	5	14	16	8
Kashima	9	2	1	6	11	16	7
Yokohama	9	2	1	6	8	14	7
Tokyo V	9	2	0	7	10	17	5

(Note: winners in extra time are awarded 2 points)

NEW ZEALAND
National League Round 8
Christchurch City 0
University-Mt Wellington 1
Central United 7
M Major 11; B Hill 16; C Banks 50, 60; D Koprivic 62
B Hawke 79, D Aliaga 81
Dunedin Technical 0

Metro AFC 1
W Osbourne 53
Manawatu AFC 2
S Cunliffe 32, I Duker 48

Napier City-Rovers 2
L Birnie 45, C McIvor 78
Miramar Rangers 2
G Little 37, M McKinlay 85

Tauranga City-United 4
T Valentine 4; D Bartosh 40, 85; A Raines 80
Waitakere City 4
T Edge 19, 87; N Viljoen 33; R Dawkins 45

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Central Utd	8	6	2	0	25	7	20
Uni MtW'	8	5	1	2	14	9	16
Miramar	7	4	2	1	15	9	14
Napier City	7	4	1	2	16	7	13
Manawatu	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
W'kere Cty	8	3	1	4	17	17	10
T'nga City	8	2	2	4	15	17	8
C'ch City	7	2	1	4	6	11	7
Dunedin Tec	7	2	0	5	12	22	6
Metro	7	0	1	6	6	23	1

LEADING SCORERS
7 - Campbell Banks [Central United]; Thomas Edge [Waitakere City]
6 - Aaron Burgess [Dunedin Technical], Graeme Little [Miramar Rangers], Dion Bartosh [Tauranga City United].
5 - Marc McGregor [Dunedin Technical]; Willie Osborne [Metro AFC]

SCOTLAND
May 12
Celtic 0 Dundee 2
Hibernian 0 Hearts 0
Dunfermline Ath 1 Motherwell 2
Rangers 5 Kilmarnock 1
St Johnstone 2 Dundee United 3
St Mirren 2 Aberdeen 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	37	31	4	2	90	28	97
Rangers	37	25	4	8	72	36	79
Hibernian	37	18	12	7	57	31	66
Kil'mock	37	14	9	14	43	53	51
Hearts	37	13	10	14	54	50	49
Dundee	37	13	8	16	51	47	47
Aberdeen	37	11	12	14	44	50	45
Mother'll	37	12	6	19	39	53	42
D'fermlin	37	11	8	18	34	54	41
St J'stone	37	9	12	16	40	56	39
D'dee Utd	37	8	8	21	36	62	32
St Mirren	37	8	5	24	29	69	29

Note: After 33 matches league is split into championship and relegation groups.

SPAIN
Athletic Bilbao 1 Valladolid 1
Barcelona 5 Rayo Vallecano 1
Malaga 3 Valencia 0
Las Palmas 2 Real Zaragoza 1
Numancia 1 Osasuna 0
Racing Santander 2 Real Oviedo 0
Real Mallorca 2 Celta Vigo 0
Real Madrid 2 Espanyol 2
Villarreal 1 Real Sociedad 3
Deportivo Coruna 2 Alaves 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real M'rid	34	21	7	6	72	38	70
Deportivo	34	19	7	8	64	40	64
Valencia	34	17	8	9	51	29	59
Real M'rca	34	16	11	7	48	39	59
Barcelona	34	15	11	8	74	52	56
Celta Vigo	34	14	9	11	47	47	51
Malaga	34	14	8	12	55	51	50
Villarreal	34	14	8	12	52	51	50
Alaves	34	14	7	13	55	47	49
Espanyol	34	13	8	13	42	35	47
Ath Bilbao	34	11	10	13	42	50	43
Las Palmas	34	12	6	16	36	55	42
Rayo V'ano	34	9	13	12	54	61	40
Real Z'goza	34	9	12	13	52	54	39
Real Oviedo	34	10	7	17	45	59	37
Valladolid	34	8	13	13	36	44	37
Real So'dad	34	9	9	16	44	65	36
Osasuna	34	8	11	15	38	49	35
Racing Sant	34	9	7	18	42	58	34
Numancia	34	8	8	18	34	59	32

PORTUGAL
May 12
Porto 3 Uniao Leiria 0
Sporting 1 Pacos Ferreira 3
Farense 1 Maritimo 2
Vitoria Guimaraes 3 C'mariorense 0
Alverca 0 Belenenses 3
Aves 3 Estrela Amadora 2
Beira Mar 3 Braga 0
Gil Vicente 3 Benfica 0
Salgueiros 1 Boavista 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	32	22	8	2	60	18	74
Porto	32	22	4	6	66	25	70
Sporting	32	18	5	9	55	36	59
Braga	32	16	9	7	55	42	57
Benfica	32	15	7	10	49	39	52
Belenens	32	14	10	8	42	31	52
Uniao Le	32	13	11	8	40	38	50
Beira Ma	32	14	6	12	42	45	48
Pacos F'r	32	12	11	9	44	34	47
Maritimo	32	11	7	14	33	36	40
Alverca	32	11	6	15	41	49	39
Salgueir	32	12	3	17	38	54	39
Farense	32	9	9	14	36	46	36
V'ria G'r	32	8	9	15	40	48	33
Gil Vicen	32	8	7	17	28	39	31
C'mrense	32	6	11	15	27	56	29
Aves	32	4	9	19	27	61	21
E Amad	32	4	6	22	25	51	18

YUGOSLAVIA
May 9
Yugoslav Cup final
Partizan Belgrade 1
Red Star Belgrade 0
Scorer: Sasa Ilic 65
Halftime: 0-0

AUSTRALIA
NSW SOCCER FEDERATION RESULTS
12th May, 2001
SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE
Macarthur Rams 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 (M Beldham 85m)

MSC Liverpool 3 (C Green 21/33m Z Momircevski 25m) Fraser Park Jets 8 (P Lombardo 5/19m D Rosenthal 13m D Cummins 87m I De Jesus 36/45m A Saad 61m S Robertson 81m)

Bankstown City Lions 1 (J Aschner 42m Penalty) Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 (E Petratos 65m)

Fairfield Bulls 9 (M Hoenselaars 27/40/89m J Ghisso 13/30/42/52m M Borg 78/81m) Stanmore Hawks 1 (A Lara 62m)

Dulwich Hill 3 (S Karavatakis 9/19m Z Donev 84m) Hajduk Wanderers 1 (W Hayward 88m)

Rockdale City Suns 0 AC United 2 (V Sansone 5m B Price 39m).
Macarthur Rams 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 (M Beldham 85m)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
D'wich Hill	8	5	2	1	19	13	17
Rockdale	8	4	2	2	18	11	14
Bankstown	8	4	2	2	11	7	14
Manly W	8	4	2	2	15	13	14
H'ville City	8	4	2	2	10	9	14
F'field Blls	7	3	2	2	26	13	11
Fraser Park	8	3	2	3	20	16	11
M'thur	8	3	1	4	12	11	10
Stanmore	7	2	2	3	7	14	8
AC United	8	2	1	5	8	14	7
Hajduk W	8	1	2	5	8	16	5
MSC L'pl	8	1	2	5	13	30	5

GRADE 21
Macarthur 4 Manly Warringah 1
MSC Liverpool 0 Fraser Park Jets 4
Bankstown City 4 Hurstville City 0
Fairfield Bulls 2 Stanmore Hawks 1
Dulwich Hill 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1
Rockdale City Suns 2 AC United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac Rams	8	6	2	0	19	9	20
Fraser Park	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
F'field Blls	7	4	2	1	10	7	14
Manly W	8	3	3	2	14	10	12
AC United	8	3	3	2	13	10	12
H'ville City	8	4	0	4	11	14	12
B'kstwn C	8	3	2	3	14	11	11
Hajduk	8	3	1	4	11	13	10
R'dale City	8	2	2	4	21	21	8
D'wich Hill	8	2	2	4	14	19	8
Stanmore	7	1	2	4	8	15	5
Liverpool	8	1	1	6	8	18	4

GRADE 18
Macarthur 1 Manly Warringah 0
MSC Liverpool 4 Fraser Park Jets 3
Bankstown City 6 Hurstville City 1
Fairfield Bulls 1 Stanmore Hawks 0
Dulwich Hill 0 Hajduk Wanderers 0
Rockdale City Suns 0 AC United 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Manly W	8	7	0	1	22	3	21
M'thur R	8	5	3	0	14	6	18
AC United	8	4	2	2	18	10	14
MSC L'pool	8	4	2	2	21	5	14
Fairfield	7	4	1	2	11	10	13
B'stown	8	4	0	4	22	12	12
D'wich Hill	8	2	4	2	12	12	10
Stanmore	7	2	3	2	6	8	9
Fraser Park	8	2	3	3	13	20	9
Hajduk	8	1	2	5	8	18	5
R'kdale Cty	8	1	1	6	12	28	4
H'ville City	8	0	1	7	6	24	1

DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE
Hills United v Mt Druitt Town P/P
Bathurst '75 4 (M Rooke 33/36/81m B Griffiths 78m) Auburn United 0

Belmore Hercules 4 (C Paradisis 41m pen/43m G Baldock 53/59m) White City 3 (R Varga 32m V Radic 73m D Poljak 87m)

Sydney University 0 Illawarra Lions 0

Ryde City 1 (S Dixon 78m) Hurstville ZSC 4 (A Alilovic 60/67/83m V Zoric 85m)

Mt Pritchard 1 (C Morton 69m) Greystanes 1 (M Grass 87m).

GRADE 21
Belmore Hercules 3 White City 5
Sydney Uni 5 Illawarra Lions 1
Ryde City 4 Hurstville ZSC 0
Mt Pritchard 0 Greystanes 1
Hills United v Mt Druitt Town P/P
Bathurst '75 2 Auburn United 2

GRADE 18
Hills United v Mt Druitt Town P/P
Bathurst '75 6 Auburn United 0
Belmore Hercules 1 White City 2
Sydney Uni 0 Illawarra Lions 1
Ryde City 1 Hurstville ZSC 4
Mt Pritchard 3 Greystanes 0

DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE
The Wanderers 2 (O Makki 33m G Orcajo 60m) Nepean Association 1 (A Quinnell 79m)

Balmain 1 (S Barlow 19m) Parramatta City 2 (L Casha 48m J Tyler 61m)

Hakoah 0 Western Sydney Lions 2 (R Pireh 40m N Hanna 75m)

Central Coast Lakers 3 (M McGarvey 18m C Smith 27m pen J Peros 63m) Concord FC 0

University of NSW 4 (N Kodomichalos 5m D Winterton 55m pen M O'Hara 78m M Shepherd 85m) Camden Tigers 1 (A Prophet 89m pen)

Petersham Sydney District 0 Western Rage 1 (N Lovrencic 94m).

GRADE 21
The Wanderers 1 Nepean Assoc 0
Balmain 1 Parramatta City 2
Hakoah 3 Western Sydney Lions 0
Central Coast 4 Concord FC 1
Uni of NSW 0 Camden Tigers 2
Petersham Syd 0 Western Rage 1

GRADE 18
The Wanderers 2 Nepean Assoc 7
Balmain 1 Parramatta City 5
Hakoah 2 Western Sydney Lions 0
Central Coast 7 Concord FC 0
Uni of NSW 5 Camden Tigers 2
Petersham Syd 0 Western Rage 13

DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE
Hawkesbury City 1 Trasandinos 1
Sydney Crescent Star 2 Kellyville 0
United Eagles 1 Colo Colo 1
Springwood 0 Auburn Star 1
Granville G'land 2 Liverpool City 0

RESERVE GRADE
Hawkesbury City 0 Trasandinos 3
Granville G'land 3 Liverpool City 1

SCOREBOARD

Sydney Crescent Star 0 Kellyville 5
United Eagles 4 Colo Colo 3
Springwood 4 Auburn Star 0

DIVISION FOUR
FIRST GRADE
Gladesville Utd 2 Sporting SCC 2
West Syd Pass 2 Schofield Scorp 3
Fairfield City 1 UTS 3
Kosciusko 0 Bossy 2
Lithgow Workmen 0 Inter Lions 4

RESERVE GRADE
Gladesville Utd 0 Sporting SCC 3
Sydney Crescent 0 Kellyville 5
United Eagles 4 Colo Colo 3
Springwood 4 Auburn Star 0

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE
Manly W'gah 1 NSW Academy 6
Sutherland Shks 7 Central Coast 0
Hajduk Wand 1 Nth West Sydney 0
NNSW Academy 3 Marconi 2
Nepean Assoc 5 Wollongong 1

GRADE 21
Manly W'gah 0 NSW Academy 4
Sutherland 10 Central Coast 0
Hajduk Wand 0 Nth Wst Sydney 0
NNSW Academy 1 Marconi 0
Nepean Assoc 2 Wollongong 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE:
UTS 2 Bathurst City Panthers 2
Coasties 0 St George Association 4
P'sham Syd Dist 4 The Ravens 1
Macarthur 2 Granville Association 0
Inter/CSI 1 UWS Wolves C'town 0

GRADE 19:
UTS 1 Bathurst City Panthers 2
Coasties 0 St George Association 1
P'sham Syd Dist 0 The Ravens 5
Macarthur 2 Granville Association 2
Inter/CSI 2 UWS Wolves C'town 6

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 16
Ku-Ring-Gai 0 Blacktown 3
Manly Warringah 1 Marconi 1
GRADE 14
Ku-Ring-Gai 0 Blacktown 0
Manly Warringah 1 Marconi 1

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13
Fairfield 2 Marconi Stallions 3
Macarthur 0 Manly Warringah 0
Eastern Subs 2 C'bury M'rckville 1
Wollongong v Newcastle Utd P/P
Bankstown Cty 0 Sutherland Shire 1
Blacktown Cty 2 Sydney United 0
Central Coast 1 Parramatta Eagles 0
Penrith 1 Leichhardt Tigers 3
Bonnyrigg 1 Sydney Olympic 6
Northern Spirit 8 St George 1

Grade 13s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bl'ktown	8	8	0	0	38	2	24
Syd Oly'	8	8	0	0	26	4	24
Nth Sprt	8	7	0	1	38	4	21
L'hardt	9	5	3	1	17	6	18
Ctrl Cst	9	5	1	3	10	12	16
C'bry M	9	5	0	4	15	9	15
Manly W	9	4	3	2	14	9	15
Marconi	9	4	3	2	16	13	15
S'land	9	4	1	4	14	7	13
M'thur	9	4	1	4	13	10	13
W'gong	7	4	0	3	11	11	12
Syd Utd	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Penrith	9	3	2	4	10	16	11
Bks'twn	9	3	1	5	16	14	10
P'matta	8	2	0	6	6	14	6
Fairfield	9	1	2	6	7	23	5
St George	9	1	2	6	6	23	5
Bny'rigg	9	1	2	6	8	35	5
East Subs	9	1	1	7	7	40	4
Newcastle	8	0	2	6	7	26	2

GRADE 14
Fairfield 0 Marconi Stallions 3
Macarthur 0 Manly Warringah 0
Eastern Subs 2 C'bury M'rickville 0
Wollongong v Newcastle Utd P/P
Bankstown Cty 0 Sutherland Shire 1
Blacktown Cty 5 Sydney Utd 1
Central Coast 0 Parramatta Eagles 3
Penrith 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2
Bonnyrigg 0 Sydney Olympic 9
Northern Spirit 11 St George 0

Grade 14s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nthn Spirit	8	8	0	0	51	3	24
Marconi	9	7	1	1	24	8	22
Syd Oly	8	7	0	1	43	9	21
Blacktown	8	6	2	0	30	4	20
Sutherland	9	5	2	2	21	10	17
Newcastle	8	5	1	2	27	12	16

Sydney Utd	8	5	1	2	18	12	16
Parramatta	8	4	3	1	14	5	15
Bankstown	9	5	0	4	21	14	15
W'gong	7	4	1	2	15	7	13
Leichhardt	9	4	0	5	11	16	12
Bonnyrigg	9	4	0	5	15	33	12
Macarthur	9	3	2	4	12	13	11
Penrith	9	1	4	4	8	22	7
East Subs	9	2	1	6	10	30	7
C'bury Mck	9	1	2	6	7	19	5
St George	9	1	2	6	8	44	5
Central Cst	9	1	1	7	4	23	4
Manly	9	1	1	7	3	30	4
Fairfield	9	0	0	9	12	9	0

GRADE 15:
Fairfield 1 Marconi Stallions 3
Macarthur 3 Manly Warringah 3
Eastern Subs 2 C'bury M'rckville 1
Wollongong v Newcastle Utd P/P
Bankstown Cty 1 Sutherland Shire 2
Blacktown Cty 1 Sydney United 0
Central Coast 0 Parramatta Eagles 0
Penrith 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0
Bonnyrigg 3 Sydney Olympic 1
Northern Spirit 0 St George 1

GRADE 17
Fairfield 2 Marconi Stallions 1
Macarthur 1 Manly Warringah 3
Eastern Subs 0 C'bury M'rckville 3
Wollongong v Newcastle Utd P/P
Bankstown Cty 0 Sutherland Shire 1
Blacktown City 2 Sydney United 0
Central Coast 0 Parramatta Eagles 6
Penrith 2 Leichhardt Tigers 2
Bonnyrigg 0 Sydney Olympic 2
Northern Spirit 5 St George 0

Grade 17s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nthn Sprt	8	8	0	0	26	3	24
Parramatta	8	7	1	0	31	8	22
Sydney Oly	8	7	0	1	22	6	21
Bl'cktwn	8	6	1	1	20	7	19
Marconi	9	6	0	3	16	10	18
C'bury Mrv	8	5	1	2	17	11	16
Bonnyrigg	9	4	3	2	17	10	15
Fairfield	8	4	1	3	20	14	13
Sydney Utd	8	4	1	3	18	15	13
Sutherland	9	4	1	4	14	14	13
Leichhardt	8	3	2	3	10	16	11
Penrith	9	3	1	5	14	14	10
St George	8	3	1	4	10	19	10
W'gong	7	2	1	4	7	12	7
Central Cst	9	2	1	6	10	22	7
Manly W	9	2	1	6	10	23	7
Bankstown	8	1	2	5	6	14	5
N'cstle Utd	8	1	1	6	8	15	4
Est Suburbs	9	0	2	7	8	30	2
Macarthur	8	0	1	7	6	27	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13
AC United 4 Mt Pritchard 1
Blacktown Assc 6 Illawarra Lions 2
Ryde City 0 Hills United 5
Ku-Ring-Gai 1 Hajduk W'derers 0
Central Coast 3 Stanmore Hawks 0
S'thn Branch 1 Nepean Assoc 1

GRADE 14:
AC United 2 Mt Pritchard 2
Blacktown Assc 0 Illawarra Lions 3
Ryde City 2 Hills United 2
Ku-Ring-Gai 1 Hajduk W'derers 1
Central Coast 2 Stanmore Hawks 0
S'thn Branch 3 Nepean Assoc 0

GRADE 15:
AC United 5 Mt Pritchard 0
Blacktown Assc 2 Illawarra Lions 2
Ryde City 0 Hills United 2
Ku-Ring-Gai 1 Hajduk W'derers 1
Central Coast 2 Stanmore Hawks 1
S'thn Branch 3 Nepean Assoc 0

GRADE 16:
AC United 0 Mt Pritchard 2
Blacktown Assc 2 Illawarra Lions 0
Ryde City 2 Hills United 0
Ku-Ring-Gai 1 Hajduk W'derers 1
Central Coast 1 Stanmore Hawks 1
S'thn Branch 1 Nepean Assoc 0

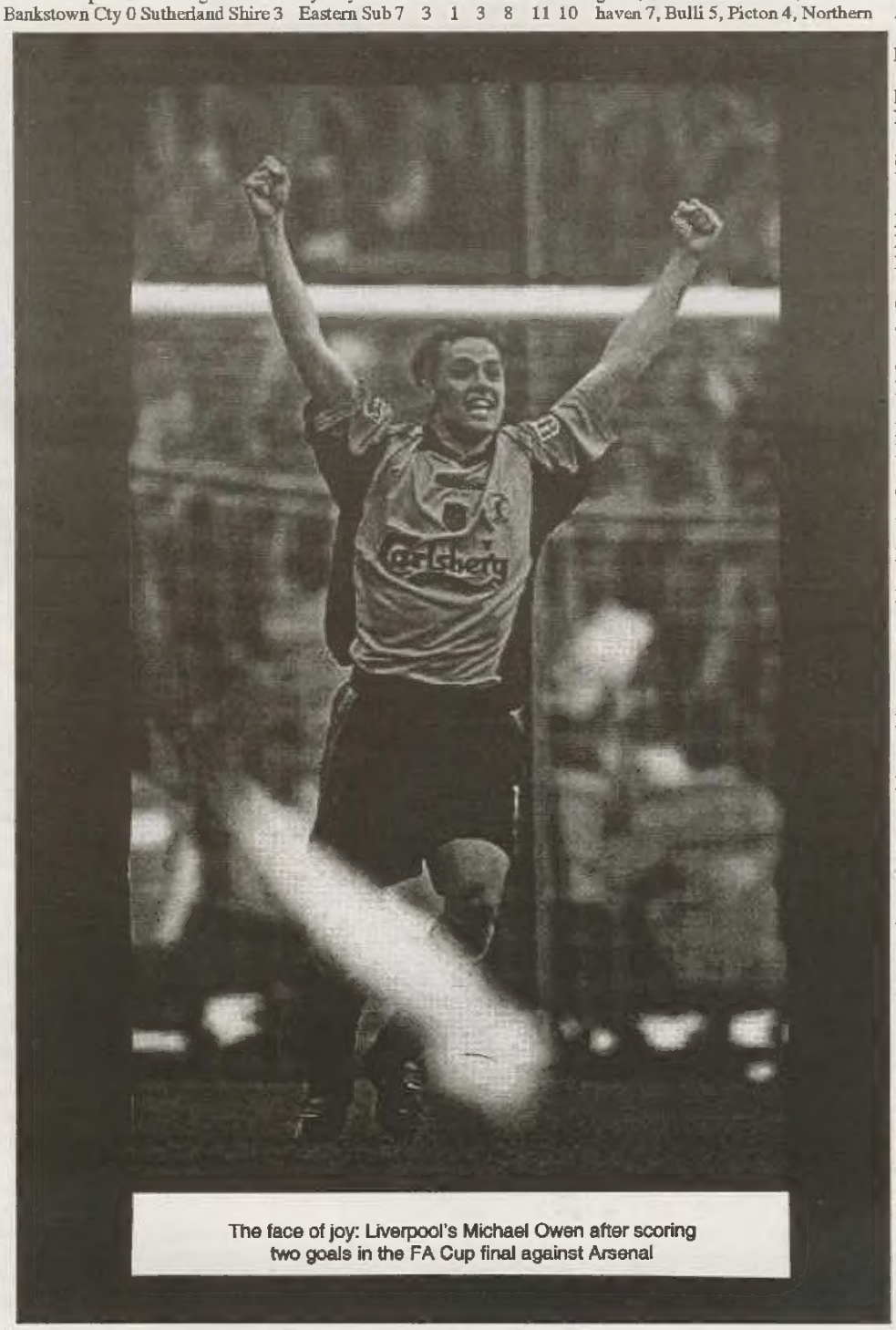
DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13
Parramatta City 0 Camden Tigers 0
Mt Druitt Town 1 Schofield 2
MSC Liverpool v Dulwich Hill P/P
Granville 2 Hurstville City 1
Hawkesbury 3 Rockdale City 2

GRADE 14:
Parramatta City 1 Camden Tigers 2
Mt Druitt Town 0 Schofield 3
MSC Liverpool v Dulwich Hill P/P
Granville 1 Hurstville City 1
Hawkesbury 3 Rockdale City 0

GRADE 15:
Parramatta City 1 Camden Tigers 4
Mt Druitt Town 4 Schofield 1
MSC Liverpool v Dulwich Hill P/P
Granville 4 Hurstville City 1
Hawkesbury 3 Rockdale City 1

GRADE 16:
Parramatta City 0 Camden Tigers 1
Mt Druitt Town 1 Schofield 0
MSC Liverpool v Dulwich Hill P/P
Granville 2 Hurstville City 2
Hawkesbury 6 Rockdale City 0

SUPER CADET LEAGUE
GRADE 11
Northern Spirit 1 St George 0
Bankstown Cty 0 Sutherland Shire 3



The face of joy: Liverpool's Michael Owen after scoring two goals in the FA Cup final against Arsenal

Northern Spirit 0 St George 0
Bankstown Cty 0 Sutherland Shire 6
Blacktown City 0 Sydney United 0
Central Coast 2 Parramatta Eagles 0
Penrith 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1
Bonnyrigg 1 Sydney Olympic 4

Grade 12s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	9	9	0	0	22	3	27
Blacktown	8	7	1	0	26	2	22
N'thn Sprt	8	6	2	0	10	0	20
Sutherland	9	6	1	2	17	8	19
Leichhardt	8	4	2	2	10	11	14
Sydney Oly	6	4	1	1	15	5	13
St George	9	4	1	4	14	9	13
Central Cst	8	4	0	4	9	8	12
Fairfield	9	4	0	5	8	13	12
Sydney Utd	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Eastern Sub	7	3	1	3	8	11	10

Blacktown City 7 Sydney United 0
Central Coast 3 Parramatta Eagles 0
Penrith 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2
Bonnyrigg 1 Sydney Olympic 3

Grade 11s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'ktown	7	7	0	0	42	3	21
N'thn Sprt	8	6	1	1	29	6	19
Manly W	6	6	0	0	17	0	18
W'gong	6	5	1	0	18	4	16
Sydney Oly	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Macarthur	7	5	1	1	10	4	16
St George	9	5	0	4	20	13	15
Marconi	9	5	0	4	12	15	15
Parramatta	7	4	1	2	13	9	13
Eastern Sub	7	4	0	3	14	15	12
Sutherland	9	3	2	4	14	15	11
C'bury Mv	8	2	2	4	4	9	8
C'tral Coast	8	2	1	5	12	14	7
Leichhardt	8	2	1	5	9	13	7
Sydney Utd	7	2	1	4	7	16	7
Fairfield	9	2	1	6	12	24	7
Penrith	8	0	1	7	3	15	1
Bankstown	9	0	1	8	1	31	1
Bonnyrigg	8	0	1	7	4	45	1

GRADE 12:

Schofield Scorpions 3 AC United 1
H'bury City 1 Stanmore Hawks 1
Hurstville City 0 Mt Druitt Town 2

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE
Port Kembla 4 W'gong Olympic 0
Cringila 2 Shoalhaven 0
Kemblawarra 3 Coniston 0
Balgownie 2 Lsyaghts 1
Bulli 2 Western Suburbs 2
Picton 6 Northern United 0

TABLE:
Kemblawarra 19, Coniston 15, Port Kembla 14, Balgownie 11, Lsyaghts 10, Wollongong Olympic 10, Cringila 9, Western Suburbs 7, Shoalhaven 7, Bulli 5, Picton 4, Northern

W'gong	7	3	0	4	7	10	9
Penrith	8	2	1	5	13	9	7
Macarthur	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Manly W	6	1	2	3	5	11	5
Bonnyrigg	8	1	2	5	7	17	5
Parramatta	7	0	4	3	4	10	4
C'bury Mrv	8	0	1	7	1	22	1
B'kstown	9	0	1	8	4	26	1

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
GRADE 11:
Rockdale City 2 Illawarra Lions 3
Central Coast 5 Hajduk Wand 0
Mt Pritchard 0 Camden Tigers 2
MSC Liverpool 2 Parramatta City 4
Hills United 2 Ryde City 2
Schofield Scorpions 1 AC United 1
Hawkesbury City 1 Stanmore 3
Hurstville City 3 Mt Druitt Town 1

GRADE 12:
Rockdale City 0 Illawarra Lions 1
Central Coast 2 Hajduk Wand 2
Mt Pritchard 3 Camden Tigers 1
MSC Liverpool 1 Parramatta City 2
Hills United 0 Ryde City 2

United 0.

ST GEORGE ASSOCIATION
12th May
9A B Nth 0 Cons Pt 2, Carss Pk 6 S Souci 1, Minotaurs 0 Rock Suns 1, Lugarno 0
Oat RSL 2, Pol Yth 1 Hurst ZSC 3;
9B Carss Pk 0 B Nth 5, Cons Pt 0 Pol Yth 4, K/grove 0 Kogarah 3, Pens W 2 For Rngs 2 1;
9C B Nth 2 ASOW 3, Peakhurst 4 Cons Pt 2, Pens W 0 Oat RSL 5, Rams RSL 0 S Souci 0;
9D ASOW 1 Rams RSL 0, Arn Aur 2 Oat RSL 2, B Hills 1 S Souci 0, B Nth 6 Lugarno 0, Cons Pt Bye;
10A Cons Pt 2 Rams RSL 1, For Rngs 1 Rock Suns 5, Minotaurs 0 S Souci 3, Lugarno 0 B Nth 5, Oat RSL 4 Pol Yth 1;
10B ASOW 1 Cons Pt 1, Peakhurst 5 Lugarno 0, Pens W 1 K/grove 3, Pol Yth 2 Minotaurs 0, Oat RSL Bye;
10C B Hills 2 B Nth(1) 0, Carss Pk 4 S Souci 1, Lugarno 1 Pol Yth 1, Rams RSL 1
Cons Pt 2, Rock Suns 8 B Nth(2) 0;
10D Cons Pt 0 For Rngs 1, Kogarah 1 K/grove 0, Raiders 1 Peak hurst 2, S Souci 4
Pens W 1, SGOSC 0 Oat RSL 0;
11A Carss Pk 1 S Souci 4, Kogarah 0 Cons Pt 7, Peakhurst 0 Pol Yth 1;
11B ASOW 2 Cons Pt 1, B Nth 1 Kogarah 1, Oat RSL 3 K/grove 1, Pens W 3 For Rngs 1;
11C B Nth 2 Rams RSL 2, Carss Pk 1 Pol Yth 2, Cons Pt 1 Peakhurst 0, Oat RSL 4
ASOW 1, S Souci 2 Raiders 0;
11D ASOW 0 Arn Aur 6, B Nth 1 Lugarno 3, Pens W 3 Cons Pt 1;
12A Cons Pt 5 K/grove 1, Lugarno 3 ASOW 1, Pol Yth 2 For Rngs 2;
12B B Hills 2 Carss Pk 1, B Nth 1 SGOSC 1, Cons Pt 1 Kogarah 1, Pol Yth 1 OatRSL 3, Pens W Bye;
12C Lugarno 2 B Hills 2, Rams RSL 2 Cons Pt 1, Raiders 3 Oat RSL 0, S Souci 1
For Rngs 1;
13A Kogarah 6 Pol Yth 0, Oat RSL 6 For Rngs 1, Pens W 0 Dolls Pt 6, S Souci 1Cons Pt 6;
13B Carss Pk 0 B Nth(1) 3, Cons Pt 4 Lugarno 4, Kogarah 0 Oat RSL 7 Peakhurst 4B Nth (2) 1;
14A Kogarah 1 Lugarno 3, Peakhurst 0 Cons Pt 3, SGOSC 0 Pol Yth 7;
14B Cons Pt 0 Pol Yth 4, For Rngs 0 B Nth 2, Oat RSL 6 Pens W 2, Peakhurst 0Rams RSL 3;
15A Arn Aur 4 B Nth(1) 3, Lugarno 2 Cons Pt 1, Oat RSLK= 2 ASOW 0, Pens W 1 ForRngs 1, Rams RSL 3 B Nth(2) 0;
16A ASOW 2 Raiders 3, Cons Pt 0 Kogarah 8, Pens W 4 Peakhurst 0, S Souci Bye;
17A Arn Scots 5 Carss Pk 1, Kogarah(1) 4 Kogarah(2) 11, Peakhurst 4 Pens W 2,Rams RSL 4 Arn Aur 7;
19A ASOW 6 Raiders 1, Lugarno 2 Kogarah 1, Monterey 7 Oat RSL 0, Pens W 1 Cons Pt 4;
PL1 ASOW 2 Kogarah 1, Arn Scots 0 Cons Pt 7, Carlton 1 Oat RSL 0, For Rngs 1 S Souci 3, Lugarno 1 Pens W 2;
PLR ASOW 3 Kogarah 2, Arn Scots 1 Cons Pt 1, Carlton 1 Oat RSL 1, For Rngs 0 S Souci 6, Lugarno 2 Pens W 4;
AAA Monterey 2 Cons Pt 2, Pens W 3 ASOW 0, Pol Yth 1 Hurst ZSC 4, S Souci 4 Ansett 0, SGOSC 1 Dolls Pt 3;
AAAR Monterey 2 Cons Pt 4, Pens W 0 ASOW 2, Pol Yth 1 Hurst ZSC 2, S Souci 1 Ansett 1, SGOSC 7 Dolls Pt 0;
AAB Cons Pt 1 Dolls Pt 2, SGOSC 1 Monterey 5, For Rngs Bye;
AABR Cons Pt 6 Dolls Pt 1, SGOSC 2 Monterey 4, For Rngs Bye;
AAC Carss Pk(2) 3 Raiders 1, K/grove 6 Peakhurst(1) 4, Peakhurst(2) 4 Carss Pk(1) 0, Minotaurs Bye;
AAD B Hills 5 B Nth 0, Carss Pk 1 S Souci 4, For Rngs 2 Arn Scots 3;
AAE K/grove 3 B Hills 3, Peakhurst (1) 6 Carss Pk 1,Peakhurst(2) 0 For Rngs 1,Pol Yth 3 Cons Pt 5;

13th May
14 Girls B Nth 0 Oat RSL(2) 2, Rams RSL(1) 4 Rams RSL(2) 3, Oat RSL(1) Bye;
16 Girls B Nth 1 ASOW 0, Cons Pt 2 Pol Yth(2) 1, Pol Yth(1) 2 Oat RSL 3, KogarahBye;
S.W. ASOW 5 For Rngs 0, Oat RSL 0 S Souci 5, Peakhurst 4 Lugarno 4, Rams RSL 1 Kogarah 0, SGOSC 1 Minotaurs 2;
O/35A Arn Scots 0 S Souci 5, Brighton(1) Oat RSL 4, Brighton(2) 3 ASOW 0,Monterey (1) 2 Monterey(2) 3;
O/35B Carss Pk 2 Cons Pt 3, Lugarno 1 S Souci 0, Oat RSL 2 Kogarah 4, Rams RSL 3 K/grove 0, Raiders 0 For Rngs 2;

The Back Page

Anderlecht clinch 26th Belgian league title

ANDERLECHT beat relegated Mechelen 1-0 on Saturday to win the Belgian league championship for the 26th time.

With just one game left, the defending champions have an unassailable five-point lead over second-placed Club Bruges who won 2-0 at Lierse.

The result means Anderlecht will again play in the Champions League next season.

Standard Liege, certain to finish in third place after a 1-1 draw at Excelsior Mouscron on Saturday will join Bruges playing in the UEFA Cup.

Harelbeke, beaten 3-0 at Lokeren, join Mechelen in going down to the second division.

Anderlecht, who have lost just once all season, had been expected to give their home fans a demonstration of football skills against Mechelen, who were already doomed to relegation.

But in fact they found their opponents a difficult nut to crack.

Anderlecht took the lead in the 12th minute when Aruna Dindane scored from a fine cross from Bart Goor.

But, Anderlecht, perhaps nervous with so much at stake, could not pierce the packed Mechelen defence again.

When the final whistle blew, the 28,000 fans in Anderlecht's Astrid Park stadium in Brussels exploded with joy.

Anderlecht players carry coach Aime Anthuenis on their shoulders after becoming Belgian champions at the Constant Vanden Stock stadium in Brussels May 12, 2001. Anderlecht defeated Mechelen 1-0.

The players ran a lap of honour before fireworks lit the night sky.

"It's a reward for a lot of work. It's great. We deserved it," Anderlecht's Bertrand Crasson said.

The title caps an outstanding season for Anderlecht, during which they progressed to the second phase of the Champions League.

Altogether, they won six of their 12 Champions League group games, taking the notable scalps of Real Madrid, Manchester United, PSV Eindhoven and Lazio.

It was disappointment again for Club Bruges, runners-up for the third year in a row.

They started the season with a record string of 14 consecutive wins.

But when Anderlecht ended their winning streak in December, Bruges seemed to suffer a loss of confidence.

They could put together only a string of draws after the winter break, allowing Anderlecht to overtake them.

But the title race was still in the balance until last weekend, when Anderlecht beat Bruges at home, inflicting only their second defeat of the season.

On Saturday, goals by Sandy Martens and Gert Verheyen gave Bruges a 2-0 win at mid-table Lierse in a game in wich Lierse's Jurgen Cavens and Bruges' Gaetan Englebert were both sent off.

Sint-Truiden, until recently in danger of relegation, celebrated their revival with a crushing 7-1 win at Charleroi.

Vahirua the hero as Nantes seal French title

By Winsor Dobbin

MARAMA Vahirua scored the only goal as Nantes beat relegated St Etienne 1-0 on Saturday to seal their eighth French first division title.

Vahirua scored goal after nine minutes and the Canaries held on in a tense match to clinch their first championship since 1995 and their first under coach Raynald Denoueix.

The win, which put Nantes four points clear of second-placed Olympique Lyon with just one match to play, sparked off wild celebrations by the Nantes fans, thousands of whom invaded the Stade Beaujoire pitch.

It was the seventh straight win for Nantes as they took the title in style.

It was appropriate the Tahiti-born Vahirua was the scorer.

He was also the marksman against Le Havre on the final day of last season in a 1-0 win that prevented his side from being relegated.

"We are all really, really proud tonight but the last few minutes were the longest of my life," said Vahirua.

Denoueix, who took charge of Nantes in 1997, was typically low key after his team's title win.

"It was a very difficult match, but it is a huge achievement," he said.

"It is a moment to savour."

Midfielder Eric Carriere, the French Footballer of the Year, said: "This means a lot -- and I believe we have proved over the season that we are the best side."

Lyon, who won the League Cup last weekend, made sure of a place alongside Nantes in next season's Champions League with a 5-0 thumping of relegated Strasbourg.

It was hearty revenge after the Alsace side had beaten Lyon 3-0 in the semi-finals of this season's French Cup.

The third Champions League spot will go to either Girondins Bordeaux, who were held 2-2 at home by Sedan, or Lille, who drew 2-2 away to Paris St Germain. Bordeaux currently lead Lille by one point.

Stade Rennes kept alive their hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season with a 1-0 win away to AJ Auxerre.

Brazilian Severino Lucas got the first-half goal.

Olympique Marseille got two goals from Ibrahima Bakayoko as they beat Bastia 2-1 at home to avoid relegation. Toulouse joined St Etienne and Strasbourg in facing the drop despite their 2-1 win over Metz.

St Etienne's defeat by Nantes means they will be relegated even if their ongoing appeal against losing seven points in the false passports case is upheld.

In other matches, En Avant Guingamp drew 1-1 with Troyes while Monaco and Lens played to a 0-0 draw after Marcelo Gallardo missed a second-half penalty for Monaco.

Sonny Anderson was among Lyon's scorers in their romp against Strasbourg -- taking his season's tally to 20 -- but he was joined at the top of the goalscorers' list by Bordeaux's Pedro Pauleta.

The Portuguese international scored one penalty after missing another in the draw against Sedan, who had Cedric Elzeard sent off for deliberate handball.

SuperSoccer Australia's FOOTBALL WEEKLY

Twice World Cup winner Didi dies at 71

BRAZILIAN footballer Didi, who won the World Cup with his own country in 1958 and 1962 and led Peru to the quarter-finals as coach in 1970, died on Saturday aged 71.

Hospital sources said that Didi, a midfielder who also made his name when he became the first player to score a goal at the world famous Maracana stadium in 1950, died of natural causes.

Didi, full name Waldir Pereira, was regarded as one of the greatest footballers Brazil has produced and was famous for his long-range shots nicknamed "the dry leaf" which dipped viciously at the last minute.

Pele, who played alongside Didi at the 1958 and 1962 World Cups, led the tributes.

"Didi was very important for me in 1958. I was only 17 and he was like an older brother," said Pele, who scored two goals in the final against Sweden.

"For him, playing football was as easy as peeling an orange.

"He invented a lot of important moves, like the dry leaf and the "three-toe pass" (striking the ball with the outside of the foot to give it an out-swinging curve)."

Didi began his career in 1943 with Rio de Janeiro club Sao Cristovao as a junior.

His first big club was Fluminense who he joined in 1949.

He later played for Botafogo, Spain's Real Madrid and clubs in Mexico and Peru.

In 1950, he became the first player to score at the Maracana, built for the 1950 World Cup which Brazil hosted, in a match between a Rio de Janeiro XI and a Sao Paulo XI.

He made his debut for Brazil in 1952 in a 2-0 win over Mexico and played for his country in the 1954 World Cup when they were knocked out by Hungary in the infamous "Battle of Berne."

Four years later in Sweden, Didi was ever present in the team which won the first of Brazil's four World Cups.

He won another World Cup winners' medal four years later in Chile, where the final against Czechoslovakia was his last game for his country.

After that Didi took to coaching and in 1970 led Peru in their first World Cup.

The Peruvians delighted the world with their effervescent football and might have gone further than the last eight had they not had the misfortune to meet Brazil's Pele-inspired team in a quarter-final which Brazil won 4-2.

Donato looks forward to football after 40

Deportivo Coruna's 38-year-old midfielder Donato has signed a contract extension with the reigning Spanish champions that could see him play first division football into his forties.

The Brazilian-born Donato, who has been outstanding this season in the both the Champions League and Spanish first division, will continue in the first team squad for at least another season.